

# THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

July 1993

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SPRING  
MEETING  
PAGE 42



## KOREA

1950-53

PLUS

The Genius  
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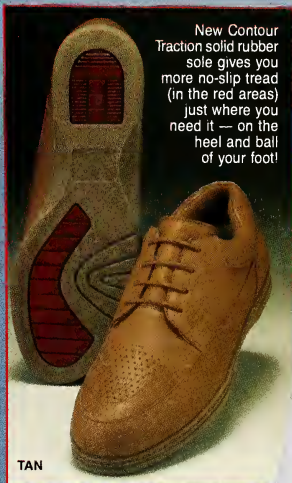
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NATURAL

# THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Magazine for a Strong America

Vol. 135, No. 1

July 1993

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*In the winter of 1950, U.S. troops in Korea fought both the communists and the bitter cold. The full story of the Korean War begins on Page 21. Cover painting, Korean Winter, by Mort Kunstler.*

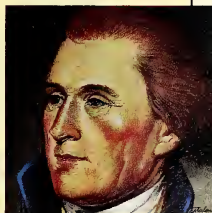
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# KOREA

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## Caring About Health

The article "VA and the Aging Veteran" by Assistant Editor Ken Scharnberg (March) was very enlightening. It will help those who do not know how the income means test affects admission to a VA nursing home. Some also question whether the means test would apply to veterans receiving service-connected disability compensation. Perhaps this information could be included in an upcoming issue.

Joseph J. Alioto  
Jefferson Valley, N.Y.

*Editor's note:* This information was included in our *Handbook of Veterans Benefits* (May 1992).

Any national health-care plan will have a profound impact on VA. More and more veterans now qualify for Medicare, and many have private hospital insurance. VA would remain dynamic if it were allowed to provide for this population and be paid for their services.

I believe the VA hospital system is at a crossroads. All honorably discharged veterans should be able to plan on VA care in their later years.

Henry P. Hadyn  
Iron Mountain, Mich.

## Homosexual Debate

Homosexuals want equality under the Constitution, but equality with whom? Certainly not with men and women who beget and raise children.

Homosexuals' equality should be with other sex deviates, prostitutes, masochists, sadists, pedophiles, and such. If homosexuals have some right based on what they do with their sex organs, then so do prostitutes and the rest. Constitutional equality was created for honorable purposes, not to justify social and sexual deviates.

Ervin J. Halvorson  
Sioux Falls, S.D.

I'm 80 years old, and I'm sick and tired of all this bull about gays in the

military. I've never witnessed a homosexual act by anyone. Why don't we judge people by their behavior and not by some image we have of them?

William A. Coe  
Mesa, Ariz.

I was an in-country radio operator during the Korean War for more than 15 months. During a night shift, a recruit put a move on me. I shoved him away and warned him not to ever try that again. About a week later, he tried again. I hit him so hard, he may still be in orbit. From that day on, it was hard to trust anyone. I am dead set against gays serving in the military. They are extremely bad for morale.

Joseph A. Snyder  
Boyertown, Pa.

In the April *Vetvoice* ("Gays In The Military"), Megan Morrell asks, "Doesn't everyone have the right to fight for our country?" My answer is no. There are dozens of reasons why people are excluded from the military, including mental or physical handicaps and age.

Dan Griffith  
Colmar, Pa.

## What Does THE AMERICAN LEGION Mean TO You?

**WHY DO YOU** belong to The American Legion? Is it because it fights for veterans? Is it because of the activities of your local Post? Is it for the community service that helps your neighbors? Is it for the Legion's strong national voice for God and Country?

THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine wants to know.

We are preparing a special issue celebrating the 75th anniversary of The American Legion and are inviting Legionnaires to help tell The American Legion story.

We are looking for letters, no more than 100 words, that answer the question: "What does The American Legion mean to me?"

THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine will pay \$50 for each letter published. The letters will appear in the September 1994 anniversary issue, a once-in-a-lifetime collectors' edition. Send your articles to:

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The deadline is Dec. 31, 1993. We regret that we cannot acknowledge or return your letters; and please do not send photos, clippings or other memorabilia, because they cannot be returned.

## Memorial Day Meaning

As I celebrated the Memorial Day weekend, I wondered if we all have taken the time to look at what this holiday really means. This is more than a day off work, a day to picnic and party. This is a day when we need to recognize the true price of freedom and the supreme sacrifice paid by our fellow citizens.

As a U.S. Air Force veteran, I was aware of what this day meant. But not until the loss of my brother, Capt. Fredrick A. Reid, during the Operation Desert Shield did I realize the magnitude of its meaning. My brother freely committed himself to this cause of freedom, even at great personal risk to himself. His wife was eight months pregnant when he left for Saudi Arabia. His second son, a son he would never live to see, was born while his father was deployed there. Fred had several

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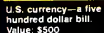
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opportunities to return home, but he stayed because it was his duty.

We should not only feel a deep sense of loss for my brother and all our fallen heroes, but also a deep sense of pride and respect for their action to preserve peace and freedom for this great country.

*Berkley C. Reid Jr.  
Dillsburg, Pa.*

## Keyes To Success

Bravo to Alan Keyes ("What's Wrong With Good Government," March). If all government would operate as efficiently as Keyes described, we would have plenty of money to fund the programs VA and the Legion fight for. We need people like this in Washington.

*James. L. Hilgart  
Grafton, Wis.*

## POW/MIAs

THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine did a superb job on the POW/MIA piece ("POW/MIAs: The Next War," by Managing Editor Miles Epstein, March). Sound ideas, diverse viewpoints, excellent analysis and solid, practical recommendations.

*Rod Paschall  
Carlisle, PA*

*Editor's Note:* Retired Army Col. Paschall is a former commander of

Delta Force, the U.S. military's elite, counter-terrorist, hostage-rescue team.

I share many of your conclusions. One of your recommendations is to offer asylum to foreign citizens who help recover POWs. In fact, you used as an example H.R. 1900, the POW/MIA Vietnam Rescue Act that I first introduced last Congress. I want you and your readers to know that I have reintroduced this legislation in the 103rd Congress as H.R. 551.

The POW/Vietnam Rescue Act would grant asylum in the United States to any citizen of Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia or Burma who personally delivers a living Vietnam POW into the custody of the U.S. government. It is my hope that we can get this legislation passed into law this year. Ask your congressmen to cosponsor H.R. 551.

*Rep. Fred Upton  
6th District, Mich.*

I agree with Gen. John W. Vessey Jr. in his quote "...stop treating the POW/MIA issue like military intelligence, because it's not. What we're trying to do is solve something that's akin to a 20-year-old unsolved crime." But the crime was committed by the politicians who didn't properly resolve this issue. I have never trusted a politician and never will.

*Thomas E. Klein  
Pasadena, Md.*

Quit perpetuating the cruel hoax, yes fraud, upon the American people with your POW/MIA sham. The scoundrels who keep this issue alive should be given a fair trial and then hung.

*Jack Nikolay  
Abbotsford, Wis.*

## Car Wars

I am responding to the letters about foreign car ownership ("Exit Ramp," Vetvoice, March). I bought a 1990 Honda Accord that was manufactured by American workers in Ohio, and made of 75-percent American-made parts. My car is reliable.

I take my car to an American mechanic and buy American gas. I make sure all my clothing is made in America. I spend my vacation dollars right here in America.

What I am afraid of is one day someone who blames the current economic crisis on "your damn foreign car" will hurl a brick through my window from an overpass and deprive this veteran of her life.

*Virginia Bobalki  
Milford, Conn.*

Loyal Legionnaires have alerted us to a Vetvoice comment from J.W. Morehouse ("Consumer Revenge," March). We welcome the opportunity to clear up an apparent misconception.

Ford Motor Company and its domestic competitors have been waging an intense campaign for customer-satisfaction leadership for several years. Toll-free telephone numbers for customer service arrived early in the campaign along with centralized customer-assistance centers, customer-driven mission statements, customer-satisfaction standards, follow-up surveys, advanced diagnostic equipment, dealer service training, and relentless efforts on product quality.

Today at Ford, there is no higher priority than customer satisfaction. Customers are the focus of everything we do and continuous improvement on all fronts is essential to our success. Nearly 200 customer service representatives are available at the Ford Customer As-

*Please turn to page 66*

## WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine welcomes letters to the editor concerning articles that appear in the publication.

Mail letters to:

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P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206**

Short letters are more likely to be published. All letters may be edited for clarity and brevity. Volume precludes individual acknowledgment of comments on editorial content.

Or, you can leave an electronic

letter to the editor by calling:

**(314) 474-7474**

Please leave your name, home-town and daytime phone number. Callers' opinions receive a ☒ symbol when published.

Here's how you responded to questions raised in recent issues:

- Should Congress ease the product liability law?  
Yes 60% No 40%
- Should Nicaragua continue to receive U.S. aid?  
Yes 51% No 49%

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# ENERGIZING AMERICA ON THE FOURTH OF JULY



ROGER MUNSON

AMERICA'S concept of liberty began its journey to the world's marketplace of ideas on July 4, 1776, the day the Declaration of Independence was

adopted by the Continental Congress.

Today, more than 200 years later, America's arsenal of democracy has delivered a Cold War victory over the former Soviet Union and communism. But today, our national security is as threatened by the enemies within as by foreign countries with evil ambitions. Veterans and their sacrifices, it seems, are being betrayed by a misguided political agenda.

More national attention needs to be focused on the following four enemies of national security:

**Enemy #1: A Hollow Army.** At the same time Americans are talking about U.S. military involvement in Somalia and Bosnia, the nation's armed forces are being sharply reduced. More than 100,000 GIs who fought in the Gulf War are being forced out of the service. Some 500,000 U.S. troops will be cut by 1995.

In Europe, the probable staging ground for possible Bosnia operations, the U.S. Army—which once had two corps and six divisions—is being forced to make-do with only one corps of two divisions, an armed cavalry regiment and a very sparse support base,” according to a recent report of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA).

The Department of Defense (DoD) claims the drawdown is so massive, it is “equivalent to moving the entire city of Savannah, Ga.,” to another continent.



**FREEDOM**—Through sacrifice, America's veterans safeguard the principles of the Statue of Liberty.

Is a world without the former Soviet Union so much safer that our military can afford these reductions in force?

Says the *International Military Review*: “At the end of 1991, 20 armed conflicts were in progress around the world. At the end of 1992, 25 wars were raging. And between 1945 and 1991, a total of 191 armed conflicts occurred.”

Bosnia, Somalia, North Korea, Iraq and Iran aren't going to disappear from the U.S. military's plans just because the Cold War is over. We must not be lulled into a hollow force when in reality regional conflicts may require overwhelming force to win, quickly and with few casualties.

No nation will start a war unless it believes it can win it. Let's make sure

no one has reason to doubt the strength of the U.S. Armed Forces.

**Enemy #2: An Undefined Foreign Policy.** U.S. troops are being deployed as peacekeepers without the protection of the Geneva Conventions. In Somalia, there was no plan to protect a U.S. POW or MIA. The United States needs to be sure that POW status is given to troops who are taken prisoner during peacekeeping and humanitarian operations such as Somalia or possibly Bosnia. If we aren't willing to protect our troops with the Geneva Conventions, we shouldn't deploy them.

In a recent poll conducted by The American Legion, 70 percent of those who responded believe that the United States doesn't do enough to protect POW/MIAs—during war or peacekeeping.

**Enemy #3: A Shrinking Industrial Base.** You have to question the wisdom of closing more than 30 U.S. military bases. The world is unsafe and the economy is not strong enough to absorb the more than 1 million defense workers who will lose their jobs. According to *The Economist* magazine, California alone is losing 70,000 jobs, 17 bases and \$4 billion in revenue.

We must also be concerned that many spare parts for our weapons are now being manufactured overseas. Could we handle wartime weapon production today?

Worse, with thousands of veterans facing unemployment and America's industrial base eroding, it is unthinkable that the front-burner national security issue on Capitol Hill is the military's ban on homosexuals.

The American Legion *strongly* supports the ban on homosexuals in the military. The wisdom of the Joint

*Please turn to page 67*

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Buckle up, America! 

# SHOULD CONGRESS CANCEL THE SPACE STATION PROGRAM?

Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Arkansas)

At a time when the citizens of the United States of America are being asked to accept the burdens of higher taxes, it is essential that Congress respond to President Clinton's invitation to identify additional spending cuts. One project that I believe stands out for elimination is the space station.

## YES



This wasteful program will cost \$2.3 billion in 1994 alone, and the U.S. General Accounting Office has estimated its 30-year cost at a staggering \$118 billion.

The new space station will likely have even less capability than the one we debated last fall—a five-times scaled-back version of the original we were told in 1984 could be developed for just \$8 billion.

Huge dividends in real science and real spinoff benefits are more likely to come from spending directly on electronics and biomedical research.

It's also telling that one of the most oft-quoted rationales for the space station has been its ability to produce jobs for America.

Unfortunately, the space station doesn't even do that very well. Last year's \$2.1 billion for the space station, for example, created only 22,000 to 25,000 direct jobs, at a cost of \$100,000 per job. By comparison, highway construction creates jobs for less than \$15,000 each.

In truth, the space station poses a more subtle threat to America's interests than just its astronomical cost: It is funded in the same appropriations bill as veterans' programs. As the costs of the space station soar, funding that program will place increasing pressure on all other items in the bill—which includes funding for veterans and housing.

As The American Legion's 1992 National Commander, Dominic DiFrancesco, told me in a letter:

"The American Legion supports a redistribution of domestic discretionary money from such expensive projects as the space station to more obvious priorities such as VA health-care delivery and VA research."

It is never easy to halt a large federal program, and that is certainly true for the space station. But halt it we must.

We must demonstrate that we are serious about reducing the federal deficit and that we are also serious about getting our national priorities back in balance. ☐

Rep. Jim Bacchus (D-Florida)



## NO

Many of my colleagues will argue that in these difficult budget times, we cannot afford to build a space station. I believe we cannot afford *not* to build one.

The space station means high-skill, high-wage jobs. As we grapple with reductions in the defense budget and the slowdown in the airline industry, our civilian space program offers opportunities to use the highly skilled labor force and advanced technology of our aerospace industry for productive civilian uses. Nationally, 75,000 people are employed in space-station-related jobs.

Aerospace remains one of the few technological sectors in which we still lead the world. American aerospace enjoyed a positive balance of trade of \$30.8 billion in 1991, while the United States suffered a \$66.2 billion deficit overall.

The space station will be a gravity-free laboratory for research that will produce advances in medicine, building materials and other advanced technologies. Space-exploration has had untold benefits in our daily lives. Every time somebody operates a computer, makes a long-distance phone call, watches television or uses an automatic-teller machine, the benefits of space technology are being felt. Every time someone undergoes a CAT scan, has arthroscopic surgery, or enters intensive care at a hospital, he or she benefits from space-related technology.

The space station will ensure American leadership in space and keep alive our dreams of returning permanently to the moon and journeying to Mars. America has always been about exploring frontiers. The space station will allow Americans to learn to live and work in space so that we can continue to be pioneers.

Our 13 international partners have already contributed \$3 billion to the space-station program and have committed a total of \$8 billion. At a time when so many factors seem to be pulling nations apart rather than together, we need cooperative ventures such as the space station.

Of course, we need to make sure that every dollar we spend on the space station is spent wisely and efficiently.

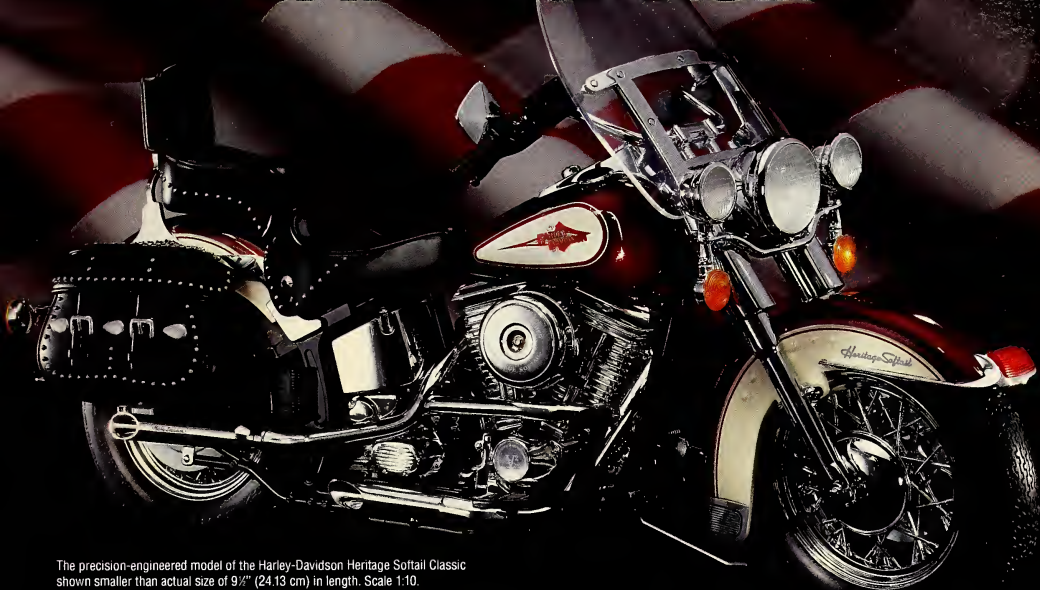
But we cannot let our budget deficit blind us to the need to make investments in our future. The space station is one of the best investments we can make. ☐

## YOUR OPINIONS COUNT, TOO

Senators and congressmen are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views by writing The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, or The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

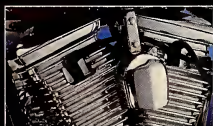
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## Federal Gun Tax

A tax on guns to finance health-care reform seems inevitable from Congress, if not the administration. Terming guns a threat to America's health, the proposal is expected to be offered as a "user fee" on handgun purchases or an increase in annual license fees for some firearms dealers. Gun-rights advocates counter that it is fundamentally unfair because it will apply to those who don't abuse guns.

## Compromise On Gays

A compromise on military gays is taking shape between the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) and leading members of Congress, such as Sen. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee. But the White House's response is still a big unknown.

The JCS reportedly are willing to replace the traditional Pentagon ban, which entails questioning new recruits, with the current, temporary policy of not asking about their sexual orientation. But if GLs then "come out of the closet," the Chiefs want authority to separate and discharge them.

The compromise falls short of what President Clinton had proposed to do with a July 15 executive order allowing open homosexuals into the military. But it also falls short of Republican demands to return to the policy in effect before Clinton took office.

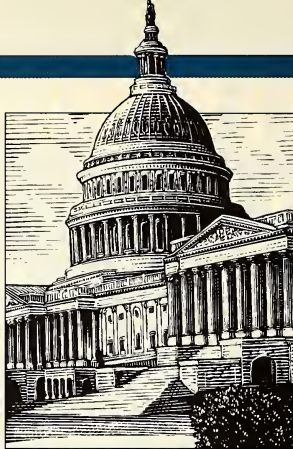
Nunn conceived the temporary policy and thinks it could be made permanent. He believes his highly publicized hearings proved that the Clinton plan is unworkable and detrimental to the military. A survey released at the hearings said 45 percent of the enlisted ranks would leave the Army if the gay ban were lifted.

## Military Gays March

Many veterans were offended by the conduct of current and former military gays at the April Washington gay rights rally, especially at places like Arlington National Cemetery. Some called these protests "desecration."

Another controversy was started by gay sailor Keith Meinhold, who was reinstated in the Navy on order of a federal judge and appeared at the rally in a red, white and blue sweatshirt. He

*Washington-based Cliff Kincaid writes for Human Events and other publications.*



## WASHINGTON WATCH

*By Cliff Kincaid*

and more than two dozen former military gays participated in an event featuring a "color guard" with American and gay pride flags.

Meinhold said his return to uniform has been a "non-event" for his colleagues. But when confronted with a legal deposition showing his commanding officer had said his presence was disruptive, Meinhold said the document was "unfortunate" and full of "half-truths and exaggerations."

## Drug-War Wars

While President Clinton has advocated putting 100,000 more police officers on the streets, his fiscal 1994 budget cuts prison funds by almost 20 percent. Insiders say the apparent contradiction will be resolved in proposals to reform tough, congressionally mandated sentences that have filled federal prisons with drug offenders. The new proposals, to come from Attorney General Janet Reno, would ease prison overcrowding by releasing convicts early or into alternative programs.

## Challenging Japan

As predicted by this column, the Defense Department has moved to protect the U.S. defense industrial base. With \$50 million from the Pentagon, a

Michigan company, Optical Imaging Systems, announced it will build a plant to manufacture electronic display screens used in fighter-plane cockpits, armored vehicles and command-and-control centers. The Clinton administration moved quickly to help the firm on national security grounds after concluding that Japan came to dominate the industry by dumping products to undercut U.S. competitors.

## Engler Angles...

Senators Bob Dole and Phil Gramm move over; make way for Gov. John Engler of Michigan. Though jockeying for the 1996 Republican nomination is in the infancy stage, many observers think Engler is positioning himself for much higher office. Engler, who boasts successful efforts to balance the state budget and cut property taxes, has been touting his record among conservatives, appearing at a national conservative conference and even on the popular Rush Limbaugh radio show.

## ... While Roberts Rises

On the Democratic side, Oregon's Gov. Barbara Roberts is getting high marks for a state health-care plan recently approved by the Clinton administration, and for resisting a harsh voter-approved welfare reform that could deny benefits to the poor. In addition, Roberts has made herself a favorite of feminists by championing access to the abortion pill, RU-486.

## Judicial Gridlock

The administration wants to put its imprint on the federal criminal justice system, however, internal fumbblings have weakened its hand. It wants to expand the number of federal judges but will have trouble convincing Congress of the need so long as 120 lower-court seats remain vacant. Also crimping the administration's plans was its mass firing of all 93 U.S. attorneys, holdovers from the last administration. This has caused a serious leadership gap in federal prosecutors' offices.

Finally, the White House let slip its own internal deadline for naming a successor to Supreme Court Associate Justice Byron White. But once the the Clinton administration gets its judicial house in order, it should be able to quickly name a replacement for Harry Blackmun, another high court justice expected to retire soon. □

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# LOAN, SWEET, LOAN



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• Last year,  
• Congress  
• made it  
• easier for  
• veterans  
• to buy homes.  
• Here's what  
• the new rules  
• mean to you.

## By Lew Sichelman

**C**ONGRESS had veterans like Randall Hatman and Robert White in mind when it voted late last year to put servicemen and women on a level playing field with other home buyers by "deregulating" the home-loan guaranty program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Thanks to the most sweeping changes ever enacted in the program

**HOMEWARD**—Thanks to an adjustable rate mortgage, new under VA, the Whites moved into their California home.

since it was established by the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, Hatman and White purchased new homes last winter—homes they otherwise may not have been able to afford, or perhaps even buy at all.

Among other things, lawmakers in Washington decided to allow veterans buying homes under the VA loan program to:

- Negotiate directly with lenders on what interest rate they'll pay on their loans.
- Pay points rather than force sellers to pay them.
- Sign up for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs).
- Take advantage of today's lower mortgage rates by cutting refinancing fees.

Deregulation "represents a major turning point in the history of lending to veterans," says Greg Lumsden, executive vice president of the Countrywide Funding Corp., a major VA lender, "and will allow more veterans than ever to

realize the American dream of home ownership."

It was the third house for Hatman, but the first time he had used his VA home loan benefits. "I was saving them for a time when I didn't have a lot of money," the 44-year-old Navy veteran says.

Because he was short on cash, Hatman was able to convince the owner of the Germantown, Md., townhouse he bought for \$98,900 to pay some of the discount points his lender was charging, and some of his settlement costs, too.

Had Congress not decided to allow veterans using the government-guaranteed loan program to pay some or even all the points, the two parties may have been unable to strike a deal, at least one so favorable to the veteran.

**T**HAT'S because under the old rules, the rate on VA mortgages was set by VA to protect borrowers from being overcharged. But since the rate often lagged the market, lenders charged a greater number of discount points to improve their yields and make their GI loans more attractive to investors.

To ensure that veterans were not paying a rate in excess of the VA maximum, the government also prohibited borrowers from paying any points (one point is equal to 1 percent of the loan amount).

Thus, sellers had to pay them, something most were reluctant to do. In fact, before the new law, homes were often listed for sale with the notation that "No VA offers will be considered."

Now, VA borrowers can negotiate with lenders for the most favorable rate and terms, just like other home buyers. And they can also bargain with sellers about who will pay the points.

Whether Hatman's seller would have agreed to pay all the points is unknown. The lender charged "only" 2.75 points, and Hatman paid two of them. But in the past, lenders often charged 4 or 5 points and most sellers balked. "Sellers were unwilling to pay the several thousand dollars to complete the loan deal when, by selling to a nonveteran, they could reasonably avoid

*Please turn page*

*Lew Sichelman's weekly housing column appears in more than 150 newspapers. He wrote "The VA Home Loan: You Can Do It Again," in our April 1992 issue.*

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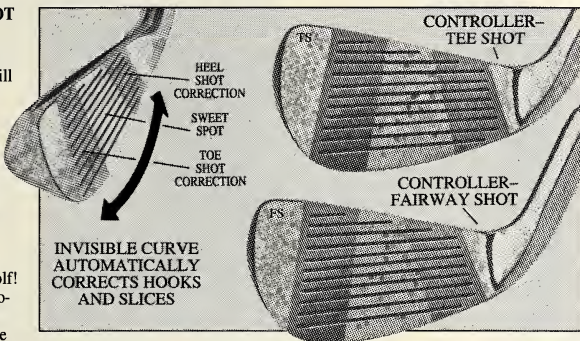
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paying discount points altogether," says Lumsden.

Hatman says his ability to share a portion of the loan charges helped convince his seller to put up some money, too. He believes the old prohibition placed veterans in an unfair position. "It's like the seller would have had to pay me to buy his house," he says. "Most people wouldn't go for that and I don't blame them."

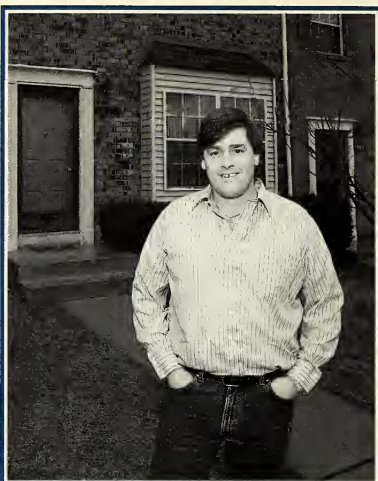
Points weren't Robert White's problem. For the former soldier, it was being able to qualify for a loan on the \$127,000 house he and his wife, Dawn, fell in love with in Suisun, Calif. The young couple simply didn't have a large enough income to support a standard 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage for that amount.

To solve their dilemma, the Whites decided to apply for a graduated payment mortgage. Although the loan called for automatic annual increases in monthly payments each of the first five years, the initial rate of 7 percent was low enough for them to qualify for the loan. But to offset the danger inherent in such a loan, VA wanted the couple to put down \$20,000 of their own money.

The Whites were going through the loan approval process when Congress voted to allow VA to guarantee an adjustable rate mortgage (ARM). When President Bush signed the bill into law last October, they switched as fast they could. The one-year ARM came with an even lower 6 percent starting rate. What's more, the loan's annual increases are based on market conditions and are not necessarily automatic. In fact, if market rates don't go up, they won't have to pay any more.

Better yet, as far as White is concerned, the ARM allowed him to start building equity with his very first payment. That wouldn't have happened with the graduated payment mortgage because the initial payments weren't even enough to cover the interest charges. In fact, since the unpaid interest would have been added to the loan balance, the couple would have owed more than they originally borrowed. And it would have been several years before they drew even.

"I want to build equity as soon as possible," says the 25-year-old construction worker. "First-time buyers



**GOOD POINTS**—New VA rules let Randall Hatman negotiate "points" for his Maryland home.

*Veterans now  
have more  
flexibility to  
wheel and deal  
to buy their  
dream houses.*

\*\*\*\*\*

like us usually stay in their homes only three or four years. Who knows? We may stay here forever, but if we do move, at least I'll have some equity to put into a bigger, better place."

**T**HE addition of ARMs to the VA's mortgage menu is especially fortuitous for veterans because many lenders are currently offering adjustables at bargain-basement rates. At press time, the average for a 30-year, fixed-rate loan was 7.48 percent nationally, according to HSH Associates, a Butler, N.J., mortgage information service. But the average starting rate for an ARM is a mere 4.59 percent. Moreover, HSH says many lenders are offering ARMs that start at 4.25 percent or less.

Nevertheless, ARMs are being guaranteed only on a three-year trial basis.

If data indicates that too many veterans have gotten into financial trouble or lost their homes because their payments rose faster than their ability to pay, the program can be terminated.

In reality, however, it's difficult to conceive that ARMs will not become a permanent feature of the GI loan program. After all, Congress already has given the government's other main housing initiative—the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance program—permanent authority to insure ARMs. The ARMs that VA can back are virtually identical to those approved for FHA financing.

FHA ARMs are the most popular adjustables on the market today. Most conventional ARMs tend to limit annual interest rate increases to 2 percentage points and increases over the life of the loan to no more than 6 points. FHA ARMs, however, cap annual and life-of-the-loan interest rate adjustments to just 1 and 5 percentage points, respectively.

But, adjustables can be dangerous if the borrower's income is not growing fast enough to withstand a rapid, unexpected run-up in mortgage rates. Because of this, VA requires that ARMs be underwritten as if the starting rate is 1 percentage point higher than it actually is.

And if the loan involves a "buy-down," in which the seller (usually a builder) pays the lender an upfront fee in exchange for a temporarily lower interest rate, it will be underwritten at one point above the actual initial rate. In other words, if the starting rate is 6 percent and the builder buys the rate down to 5 percent for the first year, the lender must still qualify the veteran borrower as if the loan was being made at 7 percent.

"Qualifying the veteran at the higher rate provides an additional degree of precaution," an FHA spokesman explains. "At least two years must pass in the life of the loan before possible increases in the loan payment can become a concern."

The change to a negotiated rate is also a three-year pilot program. But, the FHA made the shift several years ago without missing a beat and the VA's switch is expected to proceed without a

*Please turn to page 65*

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# DON'T FORCE US TO PRAY

*Religious faith is too important to be diluted by government-sanctioned prayers, argues minister Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.*

W

HEN the commentary by Michael Novak, "Prayer in School: An Intolerant Supreme Court," appeared in the December 1992 issue, we received a large number of letters disagreeing with its position.

Novak argued that the court had gone too far in banning all prayers—even nonsectarian ones—from school functions. But many readers thought it was Novak who went too far in arguing for a return to prayer in the school.

Although Legion resolutions call for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to permit voluntary prayer in public schools (see box, Page 64), not all our readers agree with the organization's position.

Some even quoted from the Bible, citing Matthew 6:6, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

To present the other side, THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine went to Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Lynn's organization advocates the free exercise of religion without government interference.

An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, Lynn received his theology degree from Boston University in 1973 and a law degree from Georgetown University in 1978. He was legislative counsel in the Washington national office of the American Civil Liberties Union from 1984 until 1991.

In this interview with THE AMERICAN LEGION magazine, Lynn explains why he believes separation of church and state



BARRY LYNN

is critical to both the nation and to religious freedom.

**AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE:** Why is separation of church and state important, since that phrase is not in the Constitution?

**BARRY LYNN:** I think most of the framers of our Constitution understood the divisiveness that can be caused whenever a government gave aid and support directly or indirectly to one or more specific groups. They wanted to avoid the possibility of this nation in any way passing laws to benefit any or all religious groups.

**Q.** Then why did the same Congress that voted for the First Amendment also approve a National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving and even appropriate money for the Christian education of the Indians?

**A.** There were imperfections in their understanding of religious liberty. James Madison, who helped to write the religion clauses of the First Amendment, supported national days of Thanksgiving when he was a member of Congress. But, as President, he indicated he had come to realize that the First Amendment prohibited such official sanctions of religious activities. And he began, as President, not to issue Thanksgiving proclamations.

**Q.** But that Congress interpreted the First Amendment differently than you do. They believed they were forbidden from setting up a state religion and interfering in religious practices, not that government was forbidden in a general way from supporting religion.

**A.** I don't think so. The framers had an option to put into the First Amendment language that simply pro-



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Barry Lynn on...

**Nonsectarian prayer:** "It reduces one of the most significant religious activities to a committee of writers who will seek to offend as few people as possible."

**The Framers:** "It's a misnomer to believe that the framers of the Constitution would be comfortable in the world of Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell today."

**School prayer:** "I don't think kids in public schools have any problems right now praying silently or even vocally."

**"In God We Trust":** "Those of us who are serious about religious practice are not happy by the presence of a reference to the deity in the same pocket as our used Kleenex."

**"Under God":** "We would be better served if the Pledge of Allegiance was without specific religious reference."

hibited the establishment of an official church. That was proposed and rejected so that the First Amendment says that Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion. That means no direct or indirect assistance to religious groups. They were trying to achieve a decent distance between religious institutions and the federal government.

**Q.** A "decent distance" between church and state is far different than a "wall of separation." You can't deny the fact that most of the framers were religious people, indeed Christians, and that both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution itself include references to God.

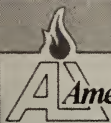
**A.** They were spiritual people. They were people who believed in some divine power in their lives. But they cer-

tainly were not particularly interested in having the Constitution reflect any religious viewpoint.

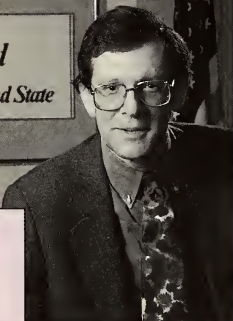
I think it's a misnomer to believe that the framers of the Constitution would be comfortable in the world of Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell today. They didn't even pray before those sessions of the constitutional convention.

**Q.** You don't deny that this is a Judeo-Christian nation?

**A.** It depends what we mean. I think there is no basis to conclude that the framers intended the religion of Christianity to have an official stamp or sanction. In terms of numbers, we have now become an extraordinarily diverse nation—one that, only by a slight majority, has a practicing Christian majority today.



**Americans United**  
for Separation of Church and State



**"WE HAVE BECOME** a diverse nation — one with only a slight majority who are practicing Christians."

**Q.** Did you object to the Rev. Billy Graham delivering a prayer at President Clinton's inauguration?

**A.** I think if Graham hadn't been there, Clinton would certainly still have been able to appropriately exercise his religious rights and receive spiritual nourishment without offending those who did not believe in Graham's theology.

**Q.** Would you rather have had President Clinton not take the presidential oath with a hand on the Bible, or to conclude it with the words, "So help me God"?

**A.** I don't think these are major issues. It's not unconstitutional for him to use a Bible or to say those words. In the pluralistic society we have today, it would be more appropriate if he did what his predecessors prior to Franklin Roosevelt did—which was to not use the Bible in that political phase of the inaugural event.

**Q.** Did you object when Clinton quoted from the Bible in his speech to the Democratic National Convention?

**A.** I would rather that political figures discuss public policy without constantly attempting to invoke the deity in support of their policy, whether that is on the left, the right or the center of American politics.

**Q.** Don't you run the risk of being accused of an anti-Catholic bias when you call on President Clinton to cut off diplomatic relations with the Vatican?

**A.** No. This is an issue that has strong support across the political spectrum in this country. It is wrong for a U.S. ambassador to be sent to any religious organization.

**Q.** So you logically oppose a U.S. ambassador to the State of Israel, which is a religious state.

**A.** But it's more than a religious state. We don't send an ambassador to the head of the Baptist, Presbyterian or Methodist churches.

**Q.** What about the use of chaplains by our military and on Capitol Hill?

**A.** In an ideal world, I believe the chaplains in the military, the prison systems and other institutions ought to be paid for privately. But there should be increased access by persons in the military and other institutions to the clergy of their choice.

The chaplains on Capitol Hill certainly should be privately funded. I don't think it's appropriate for Congress to begin its sessions with these religious activities. The irony of it is that, if you actually go to the floor of the House or Senate at the beginning of any day, there's virtually no one there to pay any attention to those religious words.

**Q.** The Supreme Court prohibited a nonsectarian prayer at a public school graduation ceremony. Do you think listening to such a prayer hurts anybody?

**A.** It certainly did hurt the individuals in this case. There was a Jewish family that objected to the Christian prayer at graduation.

**Q.** It was a nonsectarian prayer by a Rabbi.

**A.** There were guidelines for what should be said in this so-called nonsectarian prayer. I think most of us who have religious traditions have difficulty with the very concept of a nonsectarian prayer. We pray to a specific God for specific blessings that we seek.

This idea of a nonsectarian prayer is to reduce one of the most significant religious activities in our lives to some kind of committee of writers who will seek to offend as few people as possible. And that was very offensive to many religious people—Jewish, Christian and others.

**Q.** You're opposed to the reading of a prayer under those circumstances no matter how innocuous it may be?

**A.** I'm not terribly interested in innocuous prayers. As a minister, I would never utter an innocuous prayer. When I'm speaking as a member of the clergy, I use prayers that mean something.

**Q.** You're also troubled by silent prayer or a moment of silence in public schools.

**A.** There are plenty of ways you can achieve a moment of silence, including telling kids to be quiet. What some school districts want is a moment set aside for one kind of silent religious activity.

I don't think kids in public schools have any problems right now praying silently or even vocally at any time during the school day. There has been no effort made to remove the individual's right to pray from public schools. The only things the Supreme Court rightly has prohibited are government-written or government-sponsored prayer times in public schools.

**Q.** To be consistent, you must also oppose public school students being led in the Pledge of Allegiance, which includes the phrase "Under God"?

**A.** We haven't focused much attention on the addition of "Under God" to the pledge. It has turned what was an important pro-American statement into a pro-American re-

*Please turn to page 64*



**SACRIFICES NOT FORGOTTEN—**  
*American Marines fire on a retreating enemy in Seoul.*

# KOREA

## 1950-53

ARMY: WORLD COLOIZATION BY PIMA NEWS



**I**T HAS been called “a police action” and “The Forgotten War” — insults to the millions of Americans who served, fought, died or were wounded in it. But what happened from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953, can only be described as the bloody Korean War: Almost as many GIs were killed in its three years as were killed during the 14 years of fighting in Vietnam. And more than 8,000 American POW/MIAs are still unaccounted for. On this, the 40th anniversary of its fragile armistice, we dedicate these articles to Korean War veterans. Their courage, resolve and sacrifices will always be remembered. — *The Editors.*



**INSTANT INFANTRY**—ROK troops quickly get in shape to fight the invaders.



**SUPERPOWERS COLLIDE**—U.S. planes w

# INVASION!

**With a quick,  
deadly strike,  
communist North  
Korea tried  
to reunite the  
country on  
June 25, 1950.**

**KOREA  
1950-53**

**By Norman Goldstein**



**IT** WAS a Sunday, yet another infamous Sunday.

Early that morning of June 25, 1950, in a heavy rain, North Korean troops backed by tanks and artillery swarmed across the border into South Korea.

A thousand 122mm howitzers had sent the first deadly messages of trouble across the 38th parallel at 4 a.m. The barrage was followed by Soviet-made T-34 tanks leading the charge of

*Norman Goldstein is a New York-based writer who has written on military subjects. All the articles in this special section on the Korean War were written by him.*

assault troops—89,000 men—as Yaks and Stomormoviks soared overhead and amphibious landings were made on the east coast.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur was later to say that North Korea had “struck like a cobra.”

The U.S. ambassador in Seoul, John Muccio, messaged the State Department the first word of the attack, noting, “It would appear from the nature of the attack and the manner in which it was launched that it constitutes an all-out offensive against [the] ROK [Republic of South Korea].”

Across the international date line, it was Saturday in the United States when President Harry Truman got the word from Secretary of State Dean Acheson: “Mr. President, I have very serious news. The North Koreans have invaded South Korea.”

Korea? Writer William Manchester once described it as “a lumpy phallus between the sprawling thighs of Manchuria and the Sea of Japan.” The Asian peninsula that was now the focus of world attention was scarcely known to Americans—a situation much akin to another war over another Southeast Asian peninsula in later years.

Korea, once known as the Hermit Kingdom, had historically been an invasion route for either China or Japan. It had been annexed by Japan in 1910 and was its colony until the end of World War II. With the defeat of Japan,



his bout with Soviet-made North Korean tanks. AID STATION—U.S. forces paid a heavy price to repel the North Korean invasion.



**OFF TO WAR—***Hurried goodbyes to families followed President Truman's orders sending U.S. troops to Korea to stop the spread of global communism.*

the victorious Allies divided Korea roughly in half, along an arbitrary line, the 38th parallel. Americans oversaw the southern half and the Soviets, the north.

The United Nations mandated free elections in 1947, but the Soviets kept the world body out and installed as premier, Kim Il Sung—who had graduated from a Russian university and served as a Soviet officer in World War II.

Elections in South Korea in 1948 es-

tablished Syngman Rhee—who had studied at Harvard and Princeton—as U.S.-supported president. Each side claimed to represent all of Korea; each side seemed dedicated to destroying the other.

There had been numerous skirmishes between the divided nations before the June 1950 attack. Only this one was no skirmish. North Korea launched an all-out assault aimed at the forceful reunification of Korea under the control of Kim Il Sung's regime.

U.S. Secretary of State Acheson, who had previously excluded Korea from America's so-called "defense perimeter," quickly asked the United Nations to convene an emergency session of the Security Council. The world body was now five years old and this was its first major test as a global peacekeeping organization.

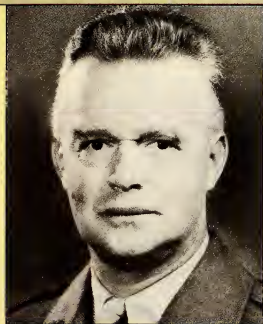
The council described the North Korean action as a "breach of the peace" and demanded that the northern forces withdraw. Two days later, June 27, the council approved a U.S. resolution to "render such assistance to the Republic of Korea as may be necessary to repel the armed attack."

The U.N. was able to get the resolution through because the Soviet Union was boycotting the Security Council in a dispute over seating Red China and did not cast a veto.

Thus, the war against North Korea

*Please turn to page 60*

## GENERAL DEAN



**I**N THE summer of 1950, Maj. Gen. William Frisbie Dean, commander of the U.S. 24th Division in Korea, led a delaying action against superior communist forces, buying time for the Eighth Army to build a bridgehead.

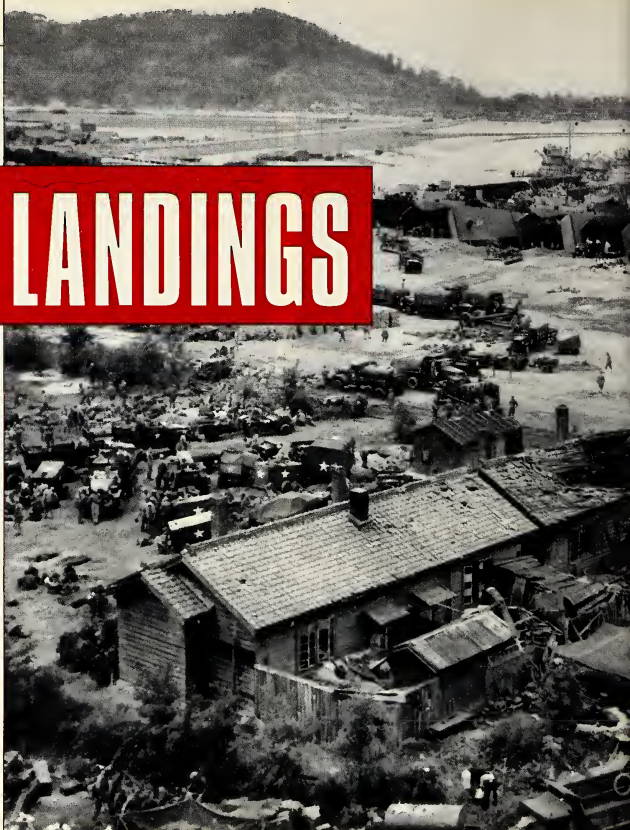
It cost him more than three years in a prisoner-of-war camp and earned him the Medal of Honor for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the repeated risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty."

*Please turn to page 60*

# THE INCHON LANDINGS

American Marines  
stormed ashore  
165 miles behind  
the North Korean  
lines, beginning  
the U.N. offensive.

**KOREA**  
**1950-53**



**A**S THE fighting moved down the South Korean peninsula in the late summer of 1950, the road and rail supply lines became more and more important to the North Korean offensive.

As a way to cut those lines, MacArthur considered an amphibious landing at several northwestern beaches such as Kunsan or the beaches near Osan and Inchon. The latter posed the greatest risks because of a dangerously narrow channel, sometimes impassable mud flats and high tides. The tidal

**MASTERMIND—Gen. MacArthur, aboard the USS Mt. McKinley, personally supervised the daring assault on Inchon.**



**"The Navy and  
Marines have  
never shone more  
brightly than this  
morning."**

**—MacArthur**



**SWIFT AND SURE—At the port of Inchon, MacArthur showed why the amphibious assault is "the most powerful tool we have." The attack was so quick that U.S. and U.N. casualties were surprisingly low.**

range was some 30 feet and currents traveled as fast as 8 knots.

But MacArthur preferred Inchon because it was the quickest way to Seoul, just 22 miles inland. Also, Inchon was only lightly defended, and with most North Korean troops concentrated elsewhere, it was not likely that a counterattack could be mounted quickly.

MacArthur had to argue his way with President Truman and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He called the amphibious landing "the most powerful tool we have" and while acknowledging the problems at Inchon, said the obstacles were not "insuperable." With fervor, he added:

"Are you content to let our troops

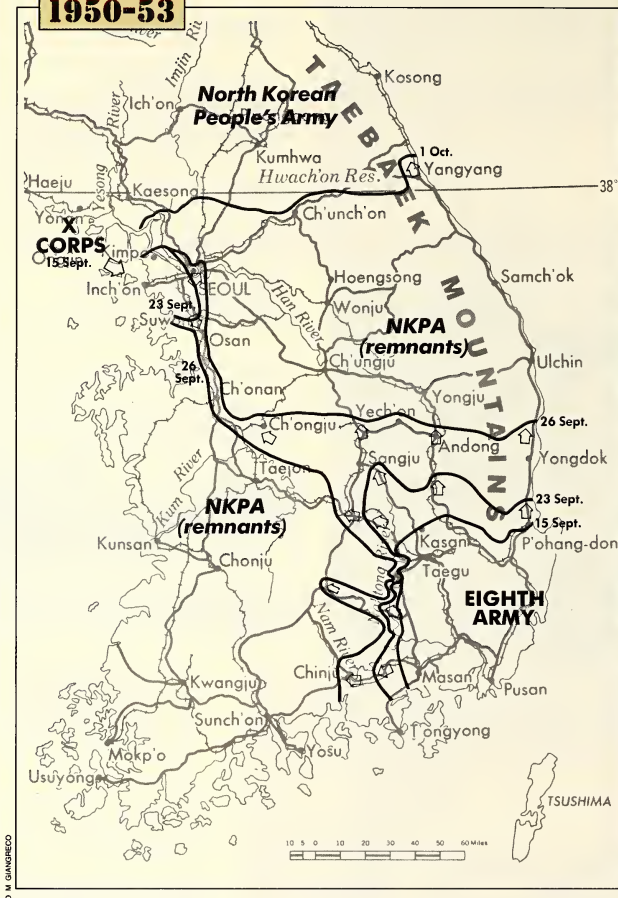
stay in that bloody perimeter like beef cattle in the slaughterhouse? Who will take the responsibility for such a tragedy? Certainly, I will not....Inchon will succeed. And it will save 100,000 lives."

They grudgingly agreed to his plan.

U.S. Marines stormed ashore Friday, Sept. 15, 1950 at the big Korean port of Inchon on the Yellow Sea—some 165 miles behind North Korean lines. It was a bold nutcracker operation, which marked the beginning of the United Nations offensive.

The Marines were covered by bombardments from British and American warships that slammed heavy shells into concealed North Korean positions. In the multinational fleet were 194 American ships, 12 British, three Canadian, two Australian, two New Zealand, one French, one Dutch,

# KOREA 1950-53



**COMEBACK**—As X Corps recaptured Inchon and Seoul, the Eighth Army broke out of the Pusan Perimeter. This map shows each forces' advances through Oct. 1. The tide turned when X Corps led U. N. forces into Seoul on Sept. 26, 1950 (photos top and right).

PHOTOS BY AP/WIDE WORLD



and 32 U.S. ships leased to Japan. The rest of the 262 ships were South Korean. The beachhead had been softened up by a two-day naval and air bombardment.

The 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, landed on Wolmi-do Island, which was connected to Inchon proper by a half-mile causeway. At 6:30 a.m., carrier planes slammed rockets at the shore guns, stopping the bombardment barely 15 seconds before the Marines hit the beach.

The Marines still faced heavy fire, but planted the American flag on Wolmi-do's highest hill within 32 minutes after landing. They suffered only what

was described as "negligible losses." Because of the tides, another troop landing wasn't possible until 11 hours later, when the other two battalions of the 5th Marines under Maj. Gen. Edward Almond's U.S. X Corps went ashore. They were able to take advantage of Inchon's exceptionally high tide and were able to drive 2 miles into Inchon within half an hour.

Between 30,000 and 40,000 North Korean defenders had been defeated at a Navy and Marine cost of 536 dead, 2,550 wounded and 65 missing. Admiral "Bull" Halsey of WWII fame called it "the most masterly and audacious strategic course in all history."

MacArthur personally supervised the assault, a gem of military precision, from aboard his flagship the *USS Mount McKinley*. He said, "The Navy and Marines have never shone more brightly than this morning."

At the same time, South Korean marines landed on the east coast, at three points between Sanchok and Pohang to the south, thus posing a threat to the North Koreans from two directions. The U.S. battleship *Missouri* was back in action, blasting away with her 16-inch guns from the Sea of Japan.

The 7th Infantry Division came ashore at Inchon three days after the



initial landing, as the Marines cleared enemy units from Kimpo airport west of Seoul. The South Korean capital was retaken Sept. 26. Three days later, MacArthur was in the city with South Korean President Syngman Rhee.

From the Pusan perimeter, the Eighth Army went on the offensive and despite some initial resistance, forced a North Korean retreat that soon turned to a rout. On the night of Sept. 26, as Seoul was being retaken, the 1st Cavalry Division coming from Pusan met the

7th Infantry Division and linked up near Osan.

Meanwhile, there was some talk in Washington and at the United Nations about "annexing" North Korea.

MacArthur was told "to conduct the necessary military operations either to force the North Koreans behind the 38th parallel or to destroy their forces." If there was "no indication or threat" of intervention by the Chinese or Soviets, he should "extend his operations north of the parallel and to make plans for the occupation of North Korea."

He was given two restraints: he could not send planes over Chinese-Russian territory and only South Korean troops could approach the Yalu River, which separated North Korea from China.

MacArthur planned to have the Eighth Army capture Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, and send X Corps—an amalgam of U.S. Army and 1st Marine Div. units, and Republic of Korea (ROK) troops getting on-the-job American training—up the east coast and have the two meet near the Yalu. He appealed to North Korean President

*Please turn to page 61*

## M\*A\*S\*H



**BEST MEDICINE—The 4077th sewed stitches of laughter.**

THERE is perhaps no symbol of the Korean War more familiar to U. S. civilians than M\*A\*S\*H, the hit movie and the TV series.

The 1970 film and 1972-1983 TV series were adapted from a book written by a real-life MASH surgeon, Dr. H. Richard Hornberger, under the pseudonym of Richard Hooker. Hornberger, a chest surgeon in Maine, interrupted his medical internship to serve 1 1/2 years with the 8055th MASH unit (the fictional 4077th) in Korea. MASH is the acronym for Mobile Army Surgical Hospital.

The 8055th had 16 surgeons, divided into two crews who worked 12 or more hours a day.

Hornberger based the book on his own military medical experiences in Korea. By the time it was published, however, it had taken on the anti-war sentiments of the time and was described as "a displaced substitute for Vietnam."

MASH units in Korea saved countless lives, as their mobility made it possible to keep up with combat operations and provide timely medical care. Located near front-line infantry medical clearing stations, they treated the wounded and then evacuated them to hospitals in the rear.

MASH units were instrumental in bringing down the percentage of wounded who died—22 percent in Korea compared to 28 percent in World War II. □



# THE CHINESE ENTER

**Some 300,000 Chinese pushed the allies back from the Chinese border in a bloody turnaround of the war.**



**A** UNITED Nations forces strengthened their positions about 50 miles south of the Yalu River — primarily the Eighth Army on the Chongchon River, X Corps on

the Chosin Reservoir and Republic of Korea (ROK) units in between — Chinese troops were seen here and there.

On Oct. 25, 1950, Chinese forces had forced a fight with the South Koreans less than 40 miles south of the Yalu. Within the week, the Eighth Army and X Corps had encountered other Chinese troops, and Chinese MiGs had appeared along the Yalu.

But there had been no significant Chinese activity for three weeks before Thanksgiving, and no one expected a major offensive from Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese communist leader. No one at that time knew of Mao's secret order for Chinese "volunteers" to "resist the attacks of U.S. imperialism" in massive

numbers. The United States had refused to recognize Mao's government, and Mao believed the U.S. forces would not stop at the Chinese border, just as they hadn't stopped at the 38th parallel.

The Sunday after Thanksgiving 1950, the Chinese struck with 33 divisions — a total of 300,000 men. A new and more ominous phase of the war had begun. ROK II Corps troops were overrun. The Turks, British and 1st Cavalry units who replaced them were knocked back as well.

On the southern shore of the Chosin Reservoir, more than 120,000 Chinese surrounded and attacked 15,000 U.N. troops. Striking late at night from the snowy ridges and valleys surrounding the reservoir, the Chinese tooted their bugles as they made their charge.

X Corps, which included the 1st Marine Division and the 3d and 7th infantry divisions, had expected to link up with the Eighth Army. But they were unaware that the Chinese had hit Eighth Army units hard and forced them back a few days earlier.

The U.N. troops on both sides of the Chosin Reservoir were forced to fight their way out of the trap across snow-

**KOREA  
1950-53**



**COLD FRONT**—The bitter winter and the Chinese took their toll on the U.S. soldiers and Marines at the Chosin Reservoir.

**WINTER 1950**—The Sunday after Thanksgiving, 33 Chinese divisions struck from the north, pushing U.N. forces to below the 38th parallel. This map shows the enemy's advances.

covered hills to the village of Hagaru-ri. Bitter cold weather, sub-zero temperatures, gusty winds and swirling snow broke down equipment as well as men. The convoys traveled by day when they could be aided by air cover; the Chinese attacked in force at night. One U.S. unit started out with 250 men; only 27 were left 11 days later.

A handful of Marines rescued some 300 wounded frostbitten GIs from the frozen surface of the reservoir and from huts along its edge. The soldiers were survivors of a Chinese communist ambush against a convoy of wounded. Most of them had crawled more than 2 miles out on the ice from the southern tip of the reservoir.



**FORCED BACK**—The Navy described Hungnam as the biggest seaborne evacuation in U.S. history.

"They were scattered over the ice almost as far as I could see," reported Lt. Fred Brunt. "It was the most horrible sight I've ever seen. The Chinese would not shoot at the wounded on the ice, but they would shoot at us when we started toward them. We drew fire all the time, and water would spurt 3 feet high when a bullet went through the ice."

Some of the GIs had been in the open for five days before they were rescued.

From Hagaru-ri, there was an equally difficult and bloody breakout south to Koto-ri. It took "twelve days of freezing hell" to reach the northeastern Korean plains of Hamhung 50 miles away—the longest pullback in Marine Corps history.

Marine Gen. O.P. Smith refused to call it a retreat. "Certainly not," he replied to the question. "We are simply attacking in a different direction."

During the two weeks of fighting, the allies suffered more than 3,000 killed and 6,000 wounded. The Chinese casualties numbered 43,500, including 28,000 killed and 15,500 wounded. Thousands of the survivors reported severe frostbite from temperatures that at times plummeted to 30 below zero.

By Christmas Eve, the last of X Corps' 105,000 troops were evacuated by a U.N. fleet of 193 ships. Previously, another 3,600 wounded or frostbitten had been airlifted out.

The bulk of the 100,000-man Eighth Army set up a new defense line at Suncheon, 30 miles north of Pyongyang, North Korea's capital. The last U.S. troops, elements of the 24th Infantry, had eluded a trap 20 miles north by pulling back across the icy Chongchon River.

The Chinese communists kept pouring into North Korea from Manchuria, building a force of 1 million. By Dec. 7, they had forced U.N. troops in northwest Korea to retreat more than 120 miles, turning the allies' objective into a fight for survival.

The Eighth Army had to abandon Pyongyang to the Chinese on Dec. 5. The U.S. 25th Division and ROK 1st Division, as well as the British 27th and 29th Brigades, withdrew across the Chongchon.

*Please turn to page 62*

## THE WINTER

**B**ATTLEFIELD environments are always hostile, but the bitter cold of the winter in Korea in 1950-51 made it unbearably so, especially for those fighting in the mountains near the North Korea-China border.

At times, temperatures dropped to 20 below zero, aggravated by north winds reaching 40 miles an hour. Both mobility and visibility were limited by snow squalls.

Many were afraid to fall asleep lest they freeze to death. Carbines and Browning automatic rifles had to be fired every half-hour or so to keep them from freezing. Some medics reported that they couldn't use plasma because it would not go into the solution at such low temperatures and the tubes would clog. Sometimes, blood froze on wounds before it could coagulate.

Canteens froze. Perspiration in boots—and on beards—turned to ice; damp socks meant frozen feet. One soldier reported that at Koto-ri several GIs put a boxcar on fire and crawled inside until the flames drove them out.

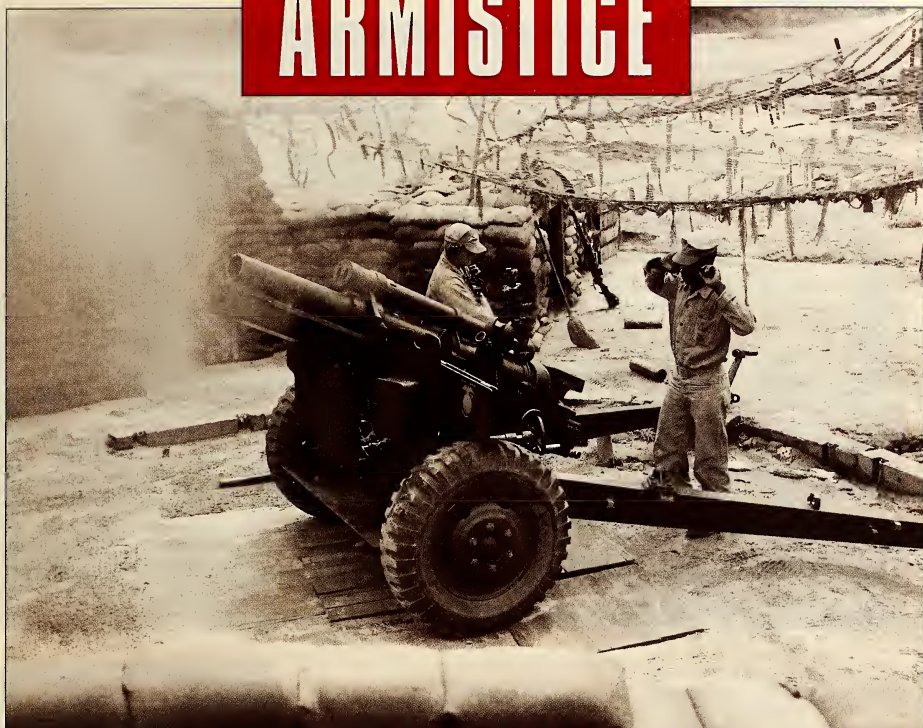
The military sent in heaters to



**DOGFACE**—Battlefield artist Howard Brodie sketched this GI.

warm up frozen engines, and special non-freeze oils and Arctic clothing for the troops. It wasn't always enough. Frostbite was a major cause of non-combat casualties. Of the Chinese, many with only canvas shoes, 90 percent reportedly suffered some degree of frostbite during the winter of 1950. □

# ARMISTICE



FINAL SHOT—A Marine howitzer fires one of its last rounds as the hour for ceasefire nears.

**While negotiators quibbled about details, the war raged on with deadly clashes from hill to hill.**



HE TRUCE talks began July 10, 1951, in Kaesong. An agenda was agreed to, but the negotiations didn't last long. They were suspended after the communists claimed the U.N. forces had violated the neutral zone. □ The talks resumed on Oct. 25, this time at Panmunjom. A cease-fire was proposed on the condition that other issues could be settled within 30 days. But there was no progress on the other issues, especially provisions for a prisoner exchange.

## KOREA 1950-53



The war continued, settling into what many called a "twilight war," a battle for what football coaches often refer to as "field position." Both sides battered for a temporary hold on real estate. Although there were no large-scale battles, there were plenty of deadly smaller clashes involving hand-to-hand combat and grenade-tossing.

"Troops of both sides are well dug in and know every inch of the terrain," one soldier said, describing the situation. "Guns are zeroed on everything across the front."

**TRUCE OR DARE—As cease-fire talks grounded on, so did the war. Above left, U.S. F-86s outperformed communist MiG-15s. Right, U.N. ground forces captured and recaptured hills such as Old Baldy. Finally, on July 23, 1953, Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison and North Korean Gen. Nam Il signed the armistice, above right.**

## KOREAN MEMORIAL

**V**ETERANS of the Korean War will be honored in Washington, D.C., on July 27, the 40th anniversary of the armistice.

Past National Commander Jake Comer, a member of the executive committee of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board, says the day's activities will include a "No Greater Love" tribute

*Please turn to page 63*

The two sides suffered about 375,000 casualties during the last 15 months of the war. More than 15,000 of them were Americans killed or wounded.

On the ground, it was a seesaw battle for the hills—Old Baldy, Bunker Hill, White Horse Mountain, Triangle Hill, Sniper Ridge, Pork Chop Hill and Heartbreak Ridge. Both sides quickly learned why Koreans often describe their country by saying, "Over the mountains, mountains."

Typical of the fighting was the battle for Bunker Hill on the western front near the truce site at Panmunjom. The Chinese suffered nearly 4,000 casualties in seven vain attempts to recapture





## THE DMZ



**NO MAN'S LAND**—Still there and still deadly, the Demilitarized Zone has separated North and South Korea since 1953.

**T**HE DEMILITARIZED Zone (DMZ) that extends the width of the Korean peninsula, roughly along the 38th parallel, was established by the 1953 armistice that formally ended the Korean War.

Today, North and South Korea still watch one another from behind barbed wire and concrete bunkers on either side of the 2 1/2 mile-wide and 155-mile long zone. More than 1.5 million armed troops are on either side of the border.

The lone telephone line between them is in Red Cross offices. There is no mail and no direct travel between the two Koreas without the permission of both governments.

Both sides have accused each other of violations of the armistice agreement—more than a million complaints, an average of 75 a day since the war ended.

At the truce village of Panmunjom—visited by 100,000 foreign tourists a year—there's an anti-tank wall, a live mine field and a double barbed-wire fence.

South Koreans who visit the DMZ must read and sign a declaration that speaks of the "possibility of injury or death as a direct result of enemy action."

The Cold War may be over elsewhere, but in Korea it is, at best, still chilly. □

the ridge. During just a few hours of the battle, the Chinese pounded the defenses of the 1st Marine Division with some 7,000 artillery shells.

"We didn't eat much and we didn't hardly sleep any," said one Marine sergeant after three days and three nights of fighting. "And whenever we moved, the goonies could see us do it and they'd let us have it with their big guns. But our boys never griped about anything. Even the wounded guys didn't gripe."

The U.S. Air Force conducted round-the-clock air strikes on enemy communications and supply lines. In

the month of May alone, allied planes flew nearly 30,000 sorties. The American F-86 Sabre jet, fastest of the allied planes, scored big victories over the communist MiG-15s.

The U. S. Air Force bombed Yalu River power installations in June and launched the heaviest raid of the war against the North Korean capital of Pyongyang in August. In the biggest all-jet battle of the war, 77 U.S. Sabres and Australian jets tangled with 120 MiGs over "MiG Alley" in late September 1952.

The U.S. Navy didn't let up either. Its

*Please turn to page 62*

# KOREA TODAY

THE STOCK MARKET



**T**HAS been 40 years since the armistice ended the Korean War.

Ironically, much remains the same. There is still no peace treaty between North and

South Korea. There is still a two-and-a-half-mile-wide demilitarized zone that extends the width of the Korean peninsula along the 38th parallel.

There are still more than 9,000 U.N. military personnel unaccounted for since the war ended, including 8,177 Americans. On Memorial Day 1990, North Korea returned the remains of five American soldiers killed in the war—the first return of U.S. dead from North Korea since 1954.

Although there are about 36,000 American troops still stationed in South Korea under a mutual defense agreement, the U.S. presence is diminishing as the South Koreans take over more and more of the military responsibilities.

On Oct. 1, 1991, U.S. soldiers withdrew from the DMZ and turned over

**Since the war,  
South Korea  
prosper while  
the North suffers  
under despot  
Kim Il Sung.**

their patrol mission to South Korean troops for the first time since 1953. All that remains in the zone is a small number of U.S. soldiers guarding the truce village at Panmunjom.

The transfer of military control in the DMZ was yet more evidence of the spectacular recovery made by South Korea since the end of the war. Many

**WITH PRIDE—Korea's capital, Seoul, now is a sprawling, international metropolis of 10 million.**

have called it an economic miracle.

South Korea was a devastated nation after the war. Some 230,000 of its soldiers had been killed, along with an estimated 300,000 from North Korea. The total of civilian dead in the two Koreas has been estimated at between 1 million and 3 million.

Since 1952, South Korea's per capita gross national product has leaped from less than \$70 to more than \$6,000. Its wartime foe to the north has made no such progress; its per capita is estimated at less than \$500. Exports from South Korea have gone from \$60 million to about \$70 billion and its trade total in 1992 was around \$150 billion, compared to an estimated \$5 billion for North Korea.

The city of Seoul—and almost every other city on the Korean peninsula—was badly damaged in the war. But Seoul has been rebuilt and is now a sprawling metropolis with 10 million residents; another 8 million live in the surrounding metropolitan area. Sky-



**ON THE MARCH**—Seoul hosted the 1988 Summer Olympics, spending billions to renovate the city and show it off.

scrapers abound. There are 1.5 million cars on its broad avenues.

The capital city preened for world-wide visitors in 1988, as it played host to 12,000 athletes from 161 nations competing in the Olympic Games. The city spent about \$1.4 billion for subway and airport expansion and the cleanup of the Han River, which runs through the center of Seoul.

Politically, South Korea has moved dramatically and peacefully from dictatorship to democracy. In 1992, the nation elected its first civilian president since the death of Syngman Rhee. All the candidates this time were civilians in an election won by Kim Young-sam, himself a symbol of the growth of a conservative new middle class.

North Korea, meanwhile, has few allies among world neighbors. It is still ruled by Kim Il Sung, an 81-year-old despot.

On occasion, the two rival nations get together in a "peace drive" and try to talk about everything from a non-ag-



gression pact to trade and cultural exchanges. Generally, the talks come up empty.

There have been few promising endeavors toward a long-range peace. In September 1991, after years of having each other's attempts vetoed by allies in the U.N. Security Council, the two Koreas became members of the United

**ON ALERT, STILL**—Continually wary of the North, South Korean and U.S. troops participate in a joint training exercise.

Nations as a joint entry.

But the two Koreans remain distrustful and mutually suspicious of each other, eyeing one another across a de-

*Please turn to page 63*

# RIVERSIDE ATTRACTIONS

**T**WENTY THOUSAND Legionnaires and their families will kick off the Diamond Jubilee Year of The American Legion at the 75th National Convention in Pittsburgh, Sept. 3-9.

As Legionnaires begin the celebration of 75 years of Legion history, they will also enjoy a Legion first: this is the first time Pittsburgh has hosted an American Legion National Convention.

A highlight of the convention will be the entertainment-packed festival, Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 6, at the main amphitheater near Station Square, which is a shopping and dining complex on the Monongahela River.

The featured performer had not been announced at press time. Among the day's other entertainers are the Dixie Cups Dixieland Band; singer-guitarist John Puckett; caricature artists and roving magicians, mimes, clowns and jugglers. The festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

At the convention, Legion leaders will undertake the huge task of shaping the organization's agenda for the coming year.

Commission and committee meetings will be held Saturday and Sunday in the David L. Lawrence Convention Center and Vista Hotel. Among the issues that concern Legionnaires are a GI Bill for Desert Storm veterans, the Legion's plan to save veterans' health-care, and maintaining the ban on homosexuals openly serving in the military.

But all will not be business for Legionnaires attending the convention.



*Free shuttle service will help Legionnaires navigate the Three Rivers City during the 75th National Convention.*

• • • • •

They will still find plenty of time to take in the sights, enjoy the fine food and go shopping. A variety of restaurants and stores await Legionnaires and their families in downtown's "Golden Triangle" area.

A free shuttle service will be available to transport convention delegates between their hotels and the convention center, and to carry Legionnaires to and from the festival at Station Square.

**T**HE 75th National Convention will kick off the Legion's year-long celebration of its Diamond Jubilee. Legionnaires at the convention will be able to buy limited-edition posters — only 1,500 were printed — commemorating its 75th year. An anniversary crystal decanter will also be on sale.

This year's convention program has been reorganized and expanded. Now called the *Convention Program & City Guide*, it will have an extra 50 pages to

help Legionnaires navigate around the Three Rivers City.

The souvenir program provides vital information on convention meetings and activities, plus a new, special city guide that lists where to eat and what to do and see. It also includes a map of the city and valuable coupons for local restaurants and stores.

A copy of the *Convention Program & City Guide* will be given to those who register at the convention.

Other Convention events and activities include:

- A senior color guard competition on Saturday, Sept. 4, at 8 a.m. This year there will be three classes: the Open Class, for groups with 4-17 members; the Open Military Class for 4-7 members; and the Closed Military Class for 4-7 members. American Legion, Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary color guards are eligible to compete in the Open classes. Only Legion color guards may compete in the Closed Class, and the winner will be designated the National Commander's color guard.

- A band contest Saturday, Sept. 4, at 9 a.m. in Heinz Hall in downtown Pittsburgh.

- A Memorial Service on Sunday, Sept. 5, at 11 a.m. in the convention center.

- The convention parade on Sunday, Sept. 5, at 2 p.m. The parade starts at Ross Street and Fifth Avenue, proceeds west on Fifth, turns south on Stanwix Street and disbands on the Boulevard of the Allies.

Legionnaires wanting to attend the Convention should contact Department Adjutants to make arrangements. □

By T. Douglas Donaldson

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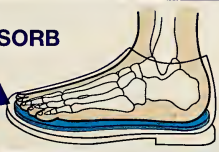
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## By Lowell Ponte

*"I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge, that has ever gathered together at the White House, with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."*

**President John F. Kennedy,  
at a dinner in 1962  
honoring Nobel Prize-winners**

THE SUNRISE was glorious in Philadelphia on Thursday, July 4, 1776. By 9 a.m.—in the midst of a deepening political crisis—delegates from the 13 colonies were gathering to debate a Declaration of Independence from Great Britain.

In a far back row of the State House sat the author, a gangly 33-year-old Virginian with red hair and freckles, who stood six-foot-two in an era when the average man was five-foot-six. Thomas Jefferson was so reserved that he never rose to speak.

But for 17 days and nights in a rented room, he had crafted ideas into words that are the cornerstone of the American Republic: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that governments rule only with the consent of the governed and can be abolished by the people.

While the delegates debated these radical ideas, Jefferson sat quietly, taking notes on the portable lap desk he had designed. Characteristically, he also devoted some moments to his passion for scientific observation. He had with him a new thermometer, and from

time to time he would check it and record the results. Thus we know that at 1 p.m. the temperature had risen to 76 degrees.

That afternoon, the delegates approved Jefferson's groundbreaking document. What one scholar later called "the first New Nation" was born.

Thomas Jefferson was a rare combination of thinker and doer: a political philosopher who was also a leader; a student of science who was also an innovator; a risk-taker—even a trend-set-

ter. He was rooted in the Enlightenment, closer in time to the Renaissance than to the 1990s, but he anticipated and helped mold our modern world.

Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743, at Shadwell, the plantation his father carved from forests near what is today Charlottesville, Va., and which had grown to 2500 acres by the time it was bequeathed to young Jefferson. According to family legend, Tom had read all 20-odd books in the family library by age five. Later he mastered French,

Spanish and Italian, and learned to read the classics in Greek and Latin.

At the College of William and Mary, he consumed the works of such scientists as Isaac Newton and Francis Bacon. But the thinker who influenced Jefferson most was the English philosopher John Locke, who believed that legitimate government existed only to secure individual rights, and must be based on the consent of the governed.

After the Declaration of Independence was signed, Jefferson

returned home, elected to the new Virginia House of Delegates. With reformist passion he drafted scores of bills in the next few years. One was Virginia's Statute for Religious Freedom, which Jefferson numbered among his greatest accomplishments.

Today we take separation of church and state for granted. But in 1777 all the recently established states, except Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, forced citizens—regardless of their beliefs—to support an official church. Jefferson's statute declared that "to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."

For helping sever the link between church and state, he would be denounced from pulpits the rest of his life.

When Americans began debating the wording of the U.S. Constitution, Jefferson, who was in Paris as minister to

*Please turn to page 58*

# Founding FATHER, Favorite SON

*Thomas  
Jefferson's  
philosophy of  
individual  
freedom is the  
cornerstone  
on which our  
government  
was built.*

*Lowell Ponte is a roving editor for Reader's Digest. Reprinted with permission from the April 1993 Reader's Digest. Copyright © 1993 by The Reader's Digest Assn., Inc.*

*"I am for a  
government  
rigorously  
frugal and  
simple."*

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, in such a case, dictates that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly we have suffered the longest continuance of a Government under a King, whose character was so marked by every abuse which a despotic power is capable of, that it has become necessary to declare that we have no alternative but to renounce and reject that Government, and to establish a new one. We have the honor to declare that we have no alternative but to renounce and reject that Government, and to establish a new one. We have the honor to declare that we have no alternative but to renounce and reject that Government, and to establish a new one.



ILLUSTRATION BY SAM CATALANO

## VA TO REVIEW CLAIMS WITH CLEAR ERRORS

**V**ETERANS who have had their VA claims denied, may have them re-examined if their cases contained clear and unmistakable errors (CUEs), according to a recent ruling by the Court of Veterans Appeals (CVA).

Veterans whose claims are re-examined due to a CUE may have their benefits increased or decreased depending on how the errors affected the claim.

A CUE is an undebatable error that would have an important effect in the final decision of the claim, CVA ruled. The court determined CUEs could be made when pertinent facts were missing or disregarded by VA or when the regulations were incorrectly used.

Previously, VA treated CUEs inconsistently, sometimes re-examining

claims, sometimes not. Under the court's new ruling, claims with CUEs must be looked at again.

The CVA decision was based on two cases in which The American Legion represented veterans appearing before the court last year. The Legion and three other veterans' organizations testified as friends of the court in *Collins vs. Principi* and *Russell vs. Principi*.

The cases resolved two major issues. The court ruled it had jurisdiction if a CUE claim had already been heard by the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), even in claims filed before the CVA was created on Nov. 18, 1988. VA argued unsuccessfully that CVA had no jurisdiction over claims before that date and warned it could be flooded with retroactive back payments from CUE decisions.

CVA also ruled that a claim containing a clear and unmistakable error is not a reopened claim, and therefore does not require new and material evidence before the case can be re-examined.

In reaching this decision, CVA pointed out that VA itself has revised claims since 1928, based on a finding of CUE, without reopening the cases. The court said VA adjudicators cannot rule against CUE claims without citing the regulations and reasoning behind their decisions.

Veterans who believe their claims contain a CUE must go through the full claims process, beginning at their regional VA office up through the Board of Veterans Appeals. For more information, contact your American Legion Department Service Officer (DSO).

### Spina Bifida Help

Vietnam veterans with children suffering from the birth defect, spina bifida, can receive help from the Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA).

Help includes a continence training program, a program designed to make young adults age 17 and over more independent, tuition for children to attend camps that teach hygiene and social skills, and information on education and employment. Counseling is available to help parents train their children to become more independent.

For more information, contact the Spina Bifida Association of America, 4590 MacArthur Blvd. NW, #250, Washington, DC 20007; (800) 872-8058.

### WWII Monument

WWII veterans are one step closer in getting a national memorial in their honor. H.R. 682 and S. 214 authorizing construction of the memorial have passed the House and Senate. Now only minor differences between both measures must be resolved before the measure becomes law.

American Legion National Commander Roger A. Munson, a WWII veteran, noted there are many memori-

als commemorating WWII groups or incidents, but none that include all WWII veterans.

Last year, P.L. 102-414 authorized the minting and sale of WWII commemorative coins to help fund the memorial. The coins went on sale May 28. For more information, call the U.S. Mint at (301) 436-7400.

### Service-Connected Rules

Veterans injured while being treated by VA may be entitled to service-connected disability, according to newly defined legal definitions.

Recent rulings of the Court of Veterans Appeals and the Board of Veterans Appeals require VA regional offices to consider all five categories of service-connected disabilities.

According to the National Veterans Legal Services Project, veterans are also considered service-connected if:

- Their service records show treatment or diagnosis of the condition while on active duty.
- The condition that existed before the veteran entered the service becomes worse during the veteran's time in service. However, the veteran must have served at least 90 consecutive days on active duty.

- The condition or illness is listed as presumptive in the United States Code and the Code of Federal Regulations and manifests within a specific time from the date of discharge. For instance, if a veteran is diagnosed as diabetic within one year of discharge, it is considered service-connected. For TB, it must appear within three years.

- The veteran suffers a secondary condition directly linked to a service-connected injury or illness.

### Right To Die Options

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reminding all its hospitalized patients that they have the right to choose whether or not they want to prolong their lives.

VA offers patients two ways to convey their wishes. One is the "Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care" that allows them to name someone to make medical decisions for them.

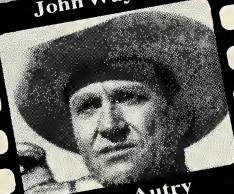
The second option is a "VA Living Will" that specifically outlines what VA can and cannot do if the patients are unable to speak for themselves.

If neither option is selected by the veteran, VA doctors will follow whatever medical procedures are necessary to prolong life. □

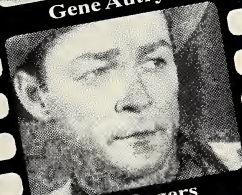
VHS



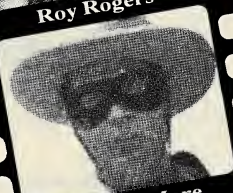
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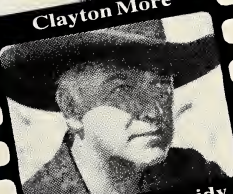
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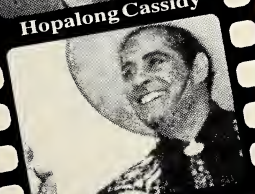
Roy Rogers



Clayton More



Hopalong Cassidy



Cisco Kid

## Featuring:

John Wayne  
HELL TOWN  
Gene Autry  
OH, SUSANNAH  
Roy Rogers  
MY PAL TRIGGER  
Clayton More  
THE LONE RANGER  
Hopalong Cassidy  
THE RENEGADE TRAIL  
The Cisco Kid  
GUNS OF FURY



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# WALKING THE POINT FOR VETERANS

Reaffirming the Legion's role as the champion of veterans' concerns, the NEC passed resolutions urging more jobs for veterans and that VA be part of health-care reform.

**V**ETERANS are the victims of a misguided political agenda right now," National Commander Roger A. Munson said after the 1993 Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) in Indianapolis.

"Instead of debating how to best find jobs for veterans and improve VA care, Congress is talking about lifting the ban on open homosexuals in the U.S. Armed Forces," Munson said. "This is ridiculous, an affront to every veteran."

The NEC, however, made no such errors in its priorities. Indeed, the Spring Meeting turned out to be a reaffirmation of what the Legion's mission has always been: safeguarding the interests of those who serve or have served in the U.S. military.

Determined to maintain this commitment, the NEC firmly called for:

• **MORE JOBS FOR VETERANS.** The NEC approved continuation of a pilot program sponsored jointly by the Legion and the Laborers' International Union of North America to train re-



**WORKING FOR WORK**—The National Economic Commission developed a comprehensive veterans' employment program, teaming the Legion with a labor union to provide job training for recently discharged veterans.

cently discharged veterans for jobs in construction and environmental cleanup. The program has already provided jobs for 24 veterans in the Washington, D.C., area. Economic Commission Chairman Joseph J. Frank expects the program to create thousands of jobs paying more than \$12 an hour.

The NEC also voted to support legislation that would "authorize and fund a VA small business loan program" for disabled, Vietnam-era and post-Vietnam-era veterans, and urged improved re-employment rights for service people being forced out of the military.

• **MAKING VA MORE ACCESSIBLE TO VETERANS.** The Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission also reported the progress in selling An American Legion Proposal to Improve Veterans Health Care on Capitol Hill. VA&R

Commission Chairman Chet Stellar informed the Legion leaders that First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has a copy of the Legion plan, as do members of Congress. The proposal would give more veterans access to a full range of VA medical services.

• **RESOLVING THE POW/MIA ISSUE.** To improve the U.S. government's POW/MIA actions, the NEC voted to centralize operations in a powerful Pentagon office; remove POW/MIA responsibilities from the Defense Intelligence Agency and return them to the military services; establish a centralized Department of Defense office to keep POW/MIA families informed; create a joint congressional committee on POW/MIA affairs; and strengthen investigative efforts for POW/MIAs from World War

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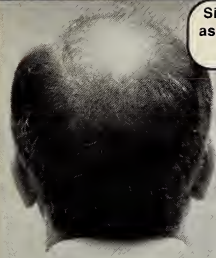
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II, the Cold War, Korea and Vietnam.

• **RAISING DUES.** While many resolutions presented to the NEC generated comment and debate, none required as much time or produced as many soul-searching questions as the proposal to increase the dues for membership to \$9 at the national level.

Said National Treasurer Webber LaGrange: "As we expand our services to the four major Legion programs—VA&R, Americanism/Children and Youth, National Security/Foreign Relations, and Economic—our expenses increase, even though we exercise good expense control."

LaGrange said outside factors — particularly the enormous increases in postal rates—have accelerated expenses. The last dues increase at the national level was approved in 1981 — more than 10 years ago. If the dues increase is adopted by the delegates at the 1993 National Convention in September, it

will go into effect as of January 1994.

\* \* \*

From the outset, the theme of the 1993 Spring Meeting became a summit "by veterans, for veterans." "We care about those with whom we serve," National Commander Munson said in his address opening the meeting.

That concern was displayed later in the misty eyes of NECmen who listened to PNC E. Roy Stone Jr. read the names of PNCs and NECmen who had recently died.

Shortly after, the NECmen watched a video tape with an emotionally charged appeal for money to complete the Vietnam Women's Memorial. About \$600,000 is desperately

needed to complete the memorial in time to meet the scheduled commemoration and dedication, Nov. 10-12.

A special resolution — approved by phone vote of the NEC weeks before

**HEALTH-CARE**—"Again the Legion leads the way," says National Commander Roger A. Munson, as he describes the Legion's health-care plan for veterans.

the Spring Meeting — strongly encourages Legionnaires to provide financial support to the memorial. Donations should be sent to The American Legion, Vietnam Women's Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1817, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1817.

After passing 25 program and policy resolutions, the NECmen returned to their Departments, satisfied again with the knowledge that The American Legion continues to "walk the point" for veterans.

The following program and policy resolutions were passed:

**Res. 1 (Comm.)** Petitions the U.S. Postal Service to issue a postage stamp honoring soldiers killed in Lebanon.

**Res. 2 (Comm.)** Supports legislation to raise the Medal of Honor pension from \$200 to \$600 a month and provide regular increases thereafter.

**Res. 3 (PI)** Urges Congress to adopt legislation addressing the Filipino veterans-benefits issue and oppose reduction of current benefits.

**Res. 5 (Comm.)** Continues funding for The American Legion's suit against VA to provide a ground troop study of GIs exposed to Agent Orange.

**Res. 7 (Comm.)** Urges support of VA's Small

*Please turn to page 67*

**LIFTING  
the ban  
against  
homosexuals  
in the  
military is  
an affront to  
the nation's  
veterans.**



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# GIS DESERVE BETTER EDUCATION BENEFITS

**N**ATIONAL Commander Roger A. Munson has voiced The American

Legion's objection to an administration plan that would pay civilian students more in education benefits than veterans now receive. Under the administration's proposal, students would get \$10,000 in education benefits in return for two years of community service.

"Any national service plan should not offer benefits greater than those

available to the men and women in the U.S. military," Munson said, referring to education benefits now offered veterans.

Under the current Montgomery GI Bill, veterans earn only the equivalent of \$7,200 in educational benefits after two years of military service, \$2,800 less than what civilians would get for the same length of service. And veterans must contribute \$1,200 of their own money, as well as face the normal hazards of military life.

"If laying down your

life for your country isn't a 'national service' then nothing is," Munson said. "The American Legion is not criticizing the President for introducing a national service plan that would provide education for hundreds of thousands of young Americans. We have always supported such education.

"However, we do think it is a strange set of priorities when those who are currently providing a national service to their country are entitled to less benefits than those who are yet to serve," he said.

"What do we say to the brave young men and women who served with distinction in Desert Storm and who may be on duty in Somalia or Bosnia?" Munson asked.

During his presidential campaign last year, Clinton advocated a national service program that would pay students \$20,000 in return for two years' community service such as working in schools, nursing homes, environmental projects and safety programs. That amount was reduced to \$13,000 once Clinton was in office, but veterans' organizations strongly objected.

After a meeting between White House officials and representatives from the Legion and other veterans' groups, the President reduced the amount to \$10,000 — still more than what the GI bill provides.

Munson also urged the administration to consider approving S. 860, the

Combat-Era Serviceperson's Readjustment Act of 1993, which was introduced by Sen. Dennis DeConcini in April. "It is only right that we recognize the highest form of national service — service in the Armed Forces of the United States," Munson said.

The Legion-supported DeConcini bill would provide a substantial improvement in GI Bill education benefits, including:

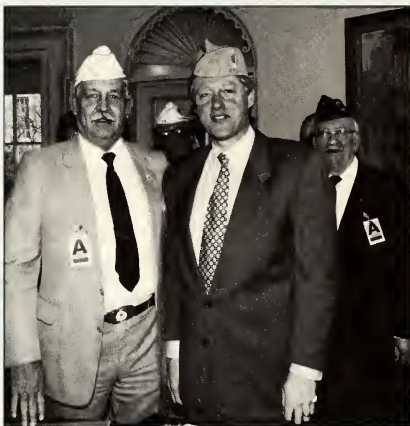
- Ending the \$1,200 contribution demanded of active duty participants in the current Montgomery GI Bill;

- Raising the maximum monthly payment for education expenses to \$777 from \$400. The increase also would apply to Gulf War veterans who participated in the Montgomery GI Bill, but are no longer in the service;

- Authorizing GI Bill benefits for Reservists on active duty for more than 90 days, and for Reservists and National Guardsmen recalled to active duty for the Gulf War.

"The current GI Bill offers a paltry sum for risks to life and limb, for no-notice worldwide deployments, even for community-service type missions around the world," Munson said.

The American Legion authored the original GI Bill in 1944 and remains a staunch advocate of national service and education, providing tens of million of dollars worth of scholarships over the years. □



**NATIVE SON (OF THE AMERICAN LEGION)**— Legion officials attending the Washington Conference presented President Bill Clinton with his Sons of The American Legion (SAL) cap during a White House visit. Clinton, whose father served during World War II, is a member of the Post 64 SAL Detachment, Haber Springs, Ark. With the President, from left, are former Department of Arkansas Adjutant Charles C. Ragsdell, Department Judge Advocate Leon Reed and Past National Commander E. Roy Stone Jr. of South Carolina.

## LEGION TELLS CONGRESS TO PRESERVE VA

THE  
LEGION  
IN CONGRESS

ANY changes in the nation's health care must include a well-supported VA to care for sick and disabled veterans, Legion representatives have told the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and the House Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care.

In other spring testimony, the Legion also called for VA to be allowed to

accept reimbursements from Medicaid and private insurance for the treatment of veterans.

The Legion told the lawmakers that VA should be a role model for any changes in America's national health-care structure. Recent studies have demonstrated that quality health care can be delivered by VA at costs of 20 percent to 40 percent lower than health care deliv-

ered by affiliated university hospitals.

The Legion cautioned the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs to carefully consider any national health-care proposals. When Canada introduced universal health care, its health-care system for veterans was abolished, leaving veterans without

health care designed exclusively for their needs.

The Legion also presented its recommendations for VA's 1994 budget to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies (see "Battle For The 1994 VA Budget," chart below). □

## A LETDOWN ON DEFENSE

AMERICA'S military strength must not be weakened by massive and premature reductions while the world is still dangerous, The American Legion has told the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

Noting America's role as the only world superpower, the Legion cautioned subcommittee members against any quick drawdowns of U.S. forces. The Legion said it would be better to maintain larger forces than to repeat the errors of previous drawdowns.

The Legion also recommended that Congress:

- Maintain the Selective Service system;
- Increase funding for military recruiting;
- Eliminate the scheduled military pay freeze for 1994;
- Enact a new GI Bill providing adequate education benefits;
- Reject any cap to cost-of-living adjustments for military retirees;
- Maintain a strong Uniformed Services Health Care Delivery System;
- Fully fund the Civilian

Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) to provide coverage for military retirees beyond age 65;

•Pay both military retirement pay and veterans disability compensation for disabled military retirees; and

•Continue modernizing the Armed Forces, including the funding for the Army's RAH-66 Comanche helicopter; retaining a 12-carrier Navy battle group; developing a Navy stealth aircraft; continuing production of the SSN-21 Seawolf submarines; producing the V-22 Osprey aircraft for the Marine Corps; augmenting Navy sealift capabilities; building up the Merchant Marine; modernizing the Air Force's F-22 fighter; producing the C-17 aircraft; creating a military space-launch system; maintaining the current inventory of intercontinental ballistic missiles; and fully funding the Strategic Defense Initiative, including the Global Protection Against Limited Strikes and Brilliant Pebbles systems. □

## BATTLE FOR THE 1994 VA BUDGET

VA NEEDS MORE MONEY, the Legion testified to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies. Below are selected categories showing the Legion and administration budget proposals compared to this year's spending.

VA BUDGET CATEGORY	1994 LEGION RECOMMENDATIONS	1994 ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS	1993 APPROPRIATIONS
Medical care	\$17 billion	\$15.6 billion	\$14.6 billion
Construction (major)	\$600 million	\$406.5 million	\$492 million
Construction (minor)	\$220 million	\$153.5 million	\$220 million
Medical/Prosthetic Research	\$280 million	\$206 million	\$232 million
National Cemetery System	\$75 million	\$70.5 million	\$70.5 million
Veterans Benefits Administration	\$750 million	\$604 million	\$590 million

SOURCE: The American Legion National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

## GAYS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SERVE

IN STRONGLY worded testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, the Legion has reiterated its position that lifting the ban on homosexuals in the U.S. Armed Forces would severely degrade the military's primary mission to defend the country.

The Legion told the lawmakers that lifting the ban would lower morale, disrupt order and discipline, cause nearly insurmountable legal and administrative issues, harm recruitment and retention, and damage military readiness.

The Legion gave the following other reasons for maintaining the ban:

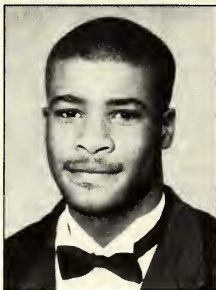
- There would be an increase in AIDS in the services, which would create a burden on the military's medical system.
- The homosexual lifestyle runs counter to the religious, personal and moral views of most military families.
- The homosexual community's higher suicide rate and the incidence of homosexual alcoholics will undermine discipline and detract from unit readiness. □

## PRIVACY SPEECH WINS ORATORICAL CONTEST

**C**EDRIC L. Ollison ofQuitman, Ga., is The American Legion 1993 National Oratorical Champion. Ollison won first place honors and an \$18,000 scholarship for his speech "Privacies: Guardian Angels," which focused on protecting an individual's privacy against unwarranted intrusions.

"Our generation is heir to electronic wonders impossible to envision 200 years ago," he told the audience at the finals of the oratorical contest in Cary, N.C.

"The challenge for us is to see that those wonders are used for good and not destruc-



**CEDRIC L. OLLISON**  
*Legion's Top Speaker*

tion of rights and privacy."

Ollison, the 17-year-old son of Carolyn Ollison-Powers, was sponsored in the contest by Post 31,

Thomasville, Ga. He attends Thomasville High School and is active in the National Honor Society, Key Club, Math Club, student council, student publications and numerous church-related activities.

The second place finisher, who received a \$16,000 scholarship, was Christine Griffin, 18, of Hanover, Mass., sponsored by Post 136, Wilmington, Mass.

Third place and a \$14,000 scholarship went to Jason Wesbecher, 17, of Albuquerque, N.M., sponsored by Post 49, Albuquerque.

Finishing fourth was Russell C. DiSilvestro, 17, of Bloomington, Ind.,

sponsored by Post 18 of Bloomington. He receives a \$12,000 scholarship.

The competition began at Posts and proceeded through District and Department levels, with 54 finalists competing at 12 regional sites.

The Legion has sponsored the oratorical contest for 56 years. Students research, write and deliver an 8- to 10-minute speech about the U.S. Constitution.

About 25,000 high school students nationwide competed for \$138,000 in scholarships this year. □

## Foundation's Grants Help Children

**T**HE American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) has awarded grants totaling \$242,625 to 10 nonprofit organizations that benefit children and youth.

Grants were awarded to:

- The Tourette Syndrome Association of Bayside, N.Y., \$18,550 for its project to assist elementary school administrators identify children with the Tourette syndrome.

- The National Reye's Syndrome Foundation of Bryan, Ohio, \$9,065 for its project to duplicate and distribute a documentary video about the Reye's syndrome.

- The Language and Cognitive Development Center of Boston, Mass., \$11,050 for its program to provide educational material for

teachers and parents working with autistic children.

- National Federation Target of Kansas City, Mo., \$43,750 to produce and distribute materials for high school students about substance abuse.

- The Minerva C.A.R.E.S. for Kids of Minerva, Ohio, \$1,100 to produce materials aimed at improving self-esteem in children of single-parent families.

- The Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation of Tampa, Fla., \$21,900 for its project to provide information about the genetic bone disorder, Osteogenesis Imperfecta.

- The International Cult Education Program of Gracie Station, N.Y., \$30,000 to publish a teachers' guide and student texts about cult recruitment techniques.

- The Guardians of Hydro-

cephalus Research Foundation of Brooklyn, N.Y., \$24,110 to provide materials about hydrocephalus, a hereditary condition that causes enlargement of the skull and compression of the brain.

- The National Association of Police Athletic Leagues of North Palm Beach, Fla., \$52,500 to produce a video and other materials to get inner-city children interested in athletics instead of violence and crime.

- The National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine of Denver, Colo., \$30,600 to prepare and distribute booklets about allergies.

The grants were announced at the May meeting of the CWF, which, for the past 39 years has been providing funds annually to help American children. □

## LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION

**Post 845 of Herkimer County, N.Y.,** provided breakfasts and dinner and opened their Post home to help the Herkimer Association for Retarded Citizens in their most important fund-raising event, the drum and bugle corps "Cavalcade of Music" competition.

**Post 221 of Charlotte, N.C.,** honored four members by recording their wartime experiences in the log of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. The women are WWI veteran Wilma Dunn; WWII veterans Betty Wallace and Margaret Niell; and Desert Storm veteran Susan Lantz.

**Post 8 of New Rochelle, N.Y.,** awarded \$1,500 worth of scholarships to two local students.

**Post 6 of Clearfield, Pa.,** works with the Clearfield Area High School Band to provide honor guard and a bugler at funerals, parades and Memorial Day services. □

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LaserBlades are different. First they should last a lot longer than any other blades on the market — over 500,000 strokes or years of active use. Although few blades will last a lifetime, LaserBlades will make it easy for you to keep them for a lifetime. Here's why.

You can slide LaserBlades in and out of the metal blade holder. This makes changing the blades simple and quick. But here's the best part.

We give you an extra set of replacement blades free with each complete set we send you. Chances are, you'll never need them but if your blades ever get damaged, no problem. Slide out the old, slip in the new. And, in the future, if you ever need more, we'll send you free replacement blades for as long as you own your car. In addition, the windshield wiper holders are rust free and should also last a lifetime. LaserBlades should be the last wiper blade you'll ever have to buy.

I urge you to try LaserBlades on your car for the next few years. LaserBlades come with everything you need to install them quickly and easily — all with easy-to-follow instructions. In addition, a toll-free assistance line is available to answer any questions.

JS&A is one of America's premiere suppliers of quality products by mail for over 20 years — further assurance that your modest investment is well protected.

Experience a set of blades on your car unlike anything

you've ever experienced before. LaserBlades will give you the quality, the precision and the safety that no other wiper system can match. And it's guaranteed for the life of your car or your money back. Order a set at no obligation, today.



***The One-Swipe™ wiping system cleans your windshield with just one swipe.***

## Order Form

☐ Please send me LaserBlade wiper blades for only \$19.95 per set of two blades. I understand that I will also receive a free set of replacement blades and that my wipers are guaranteed for the life of my car. Credit card buyers call toll free. VISA or Master Card accepted. Or mail your check or money order for \$19.95 plus \$4 postage and handling to the address below.

*Please specify make, model and year.*

LaserBlades™ ..... **\$19.95**  
One Set Replacement Blades ..... **Free**

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City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**JS&A**

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**CALLTOLL FREE 800 962-4900**

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# DRIVE FOR LIFE

**W**HEN Don Adams was in the Air Force in 1946, his friend, Sgt. Robert Stone, was severely injured in a motorcycle accident and needed blood quickly.

Adams gladly donated the blood to save his friend's life. Since then, Adams, a member of Post 814, Portville, N.Y., has continued to donate blood and is now one pint shy of 24 gallons.

"I donate as much as the blood bank will allow," Adams says. "I'd give more if I could."

Adams eagerly counts the days between donations. He can donate every 56 days, which means about six or seven times a year.

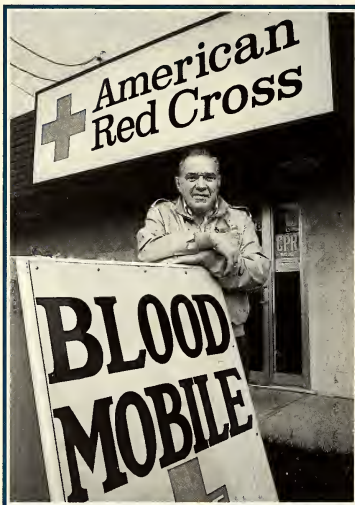
Legionnaires such as Don Adams have helped make The American Legion one of the largest donor groups in the country. During 1991-92, 119,713 pints of blood were given by 57,071 American Legion donors. Veterans in VA hospitals are regular beneficiaries of the Legion's Blood Donor program.

"It's rewarding to know that you're helping others when you walk out from giving blood," says George Panuce of Post 684, Chicago, who is the Department of Illinois Blood Drive co-chairman. "It's the essence of life. A priceless everlasting gift that cannot be mined or manufactured."

The period between Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day has become known as American Legion Blood Donor month. However, blood must be used within a short time after it is collected, so donations are needed all year, according to William O. Moore Jr., Chairman of the Legion's National Security Commission, which oversees the Legion's program.

Because of an increased number of accidents during the past few holiday seasons, demand for blood was exceptionally high. In fact, supplies were so

*By giving almost 120,000 pints of blood last year, Legion donors ensured a larger, safer blood supply.*



**GIVING**—Don Adams, a Legionnaire from Post 814, Portville, N.Y., donates blood as often as the blood bank allows — every 56 days.

critical that only emergency operations could be performed, says Moore.

Answering this need, the Department of Illinois, a frequent leader in American Legion national blood drives, initiated its Operation Red Alert blood drive during the holiday season of 1971.

As an incentive, the Department of Illinois gives donor pins to Legionnaires who donate blood. The pins, shaped like the map of Illinois, have the

Legion emblem and a drop of blood on them. Posts are also recognized for their blood drive efforts at the Department convention.

Each year, the National Commander also presents awards in six categories based on Department size. Two awards in each category are given: one for the highest percentage of Department members who donate blood, and the other for having the highest percentage of Posts participating in The American Legion Blood Donor Program.

The 1991-92 winners were:

**Departments with more than 100,000 members:** Illinois, 5.6% Legionnaires participating; 36.6% Posts participating.

**Departments with 70,000 to 99,999 members:** Wisconsin, 1.3% Legionnaires participating; 13.8% Posts participating.

**Departments with 40,000 to 69,999 members:** Tennessee, 1.8% Legionnaires participating; Georgia, 26.5% Posts participating.

**Departments with 25,000 to 39,999 members:** New Hampshire, 0.2% Legionnaires participating; 3.9% Posts participating.

**Departments with 10,000 to 24,999 members:** No submission.

**Departments with less than 10,000 members:** Delaware, 0.8% Legionnaires participating; 21.9% Posts participating.

\*\*\*

"There is still no adequate substitute for human blood," says National Commander Roger A. Munson. "Blood is a precious resource, and the Legion proudly is known as the nation's leading blood-donor organization."

"With World War II veterans aging and becoming ineligible to be donors, the Legion needs the support of its younger members to keep the program alive."

Posts can get involved in the Legion's blood drive program by appointing a blood drive chairman and contacting a

*Please turn to page 65*



# If You're At Least 50 Years Old... You Deserve A Break!

*Uncle Bernie*

That's right! I'm Uncle Bernie and if you're at least 50 years old like me, you can start buying all the merchandise you want at unbelievable wholesale prices right now! The prices in this ad are just a sample of the savings, and if you've never seen true wholesale prices before, you're probably amazed! Did you know that stores normally charge you DOUBLE their wholesale price on the products you buy? Surprise! Mail order companies make that look like a bargain! You can pay them as much as 10 TIMES the original product cost or more. How else do you think they can afford to mail out BILLIONS OF DOLLARS of junk mail every year? And where does it end up? Most of mine gets tossed in the garbage. That's no way to spend your hard earned money! With my club, you'll have a way to get the same products at wholesale, or below wholesale ALL THE TIME!

## Here's How It Works

By collecting a small membership fee from all my customers, I can afford to mail you a catalog that will let you buy wholesale for one full year, pay for this ad, and make a small profit WITHOUT charging you a fortune for the products you want. And because I'm running this nationwide membership drive, you can even save 50% on your membership fee if you join before August 15, 1993. You pay just \$10 (not \$20) for a full One-Year Membership. That gives you ALL the benefits right away including the savings on the products in this ad. Remember, you must be at least 50 years old to join. After all, us older folks deserve a break after all these years!

## I Like Makin' Things Easy

With my 50 Plus Wholesale Club, there are no gimmicks or strings attached. You don't owe me anything once you're a member! You buy any products you want, when you want them and as much or as little as you want! It's that easy.

## The Savings Don't End Here!

Once you get a taste of buying wholesale, you'll never want to pay retail prices again! As a member of Uncle Bernie's 50 Plus Wholesale Club, you'll receive a complete up to the minute catalog loaded with items at wholesale or below wholesale prices. Each item in the catalog, like the products in this ad, has been carefully selected for its quality, performance, uniqueness and popularity! You'll recognize many of the items from other mail order companies and even TV commercials. The only difference is, YOU WON'T BELIEVE THE PRICES!

## Everything's Guaranteed!

I sell only top quality merchandise. But, if you're not happy with anything, just send it back and I'll send you your money. And if you're not happy with my club for any reason, I'll send your ten bucks back too. There's no way you can lose!

**YOU MUST RESPOND BEFORE AUGUST 15, 1993!**

**Yes Uncle Bernie!** I'm at least 50 years old like you and I deserve a break. Enroll me in your Wholesale Club today!

**Start my Savings with the following order:**

Item	Price	Ship.	Qty.	Total
TV Ponytail Hairstyler	\$1	50c		
Famous TV Stepper	\$10	\$6		
Power Cutters	\$1	50c		
Rolling Ruler	\$1	50c		
Wiper Blades	\$1 Pair	50c		

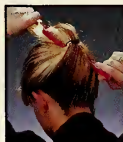
**MEMBERSHIP FEE** (New Members Only) **\$10**

**Order Processing Fee** **\$3**

Virginia Residents add sales tax.

**TOTAL \$**

**"50 Plus WHOLESALE CLUB"**



### TV PONYTAIL HAIRSTYLER

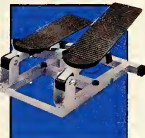
All it takes is a ponytail and a flip to create over 30 salon styles instantly! Perfect for all types of hair and for all ages and occasions. Illustrated instructions and French Braiding Made Simple Guide included.

**Club Price \$1** **Sold Up To \$5.00**

### FAMOUS TV STEPPER

The best way to get into shape for men and women of all ages! Slim down, tone your body and burn calories 4 times faster than walking and 3 times faster than swimming! This sturdy stepper is portable and easy to use.

**Club Price \$10** **Sold Up To \$79.95**



### POWER CUTTERS

Even the most delicate hands can cut through the thickest branches like butter! The exclusive ratchet action combined with the razor sharp, teflon coated blade gives you unbelievable cutting power.

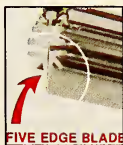
**Club Price \$1** **Sold Up To \$5.50**



### ROLLING RULER

Draw like a pro, draw angles, circles, curves, arcs, squares, corners and parallel lines. A great stocking stuffer.

**Club Price \$1** **Sold Up To \$12.95**



### 5 EDGE WIPER BLADES

Works in rain, snow, sleet and hail. No more smudges or streaks. The last wipers you'll ever buy!

**Club Price \$1** **Sold Up To \$9.95**

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☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex ☐ Diners ☐ Discover ☐ Carte Blanc

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Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Uncle Bernie, Dept. UB5194  
2428 Patterson Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016**

## HOW TO USE VETS

This month there are 970 military reunions listed on these pages. However, VETS has information on more than 10,000 other reunions. For information on reunions for any military unit or ship, call

**(900) 737-VETS**  
(900) 737-8387

If you know the VETS five-digit number assigned to the ship or unit, please give it to the operator. The number is printed immediately after the unit in the magazine. If you don't know the VETS number or haven't seen the ship or unit listed in the magazine, VETS opera-

tors may still be able to provide you with information. Many units are enrolling daily in VETS. Operators are on call Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time; from noon to 8 p.m. Central Daylight Saving Time; from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mountain Daylight Saving Time; and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Daylight Saving Time. Phone calls cost \$1.95 per minute, and the average call takes two minutes or less. Proceeds help support various veterans' and children's programs and services sponsored by The American Legion. □

## OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to VETS, P.O. Box 10088, Columbia, MO 65205-0000. Unit names may be published two times per year, upon request.

For free help in arranging reunion travel and lodging, call (900) 4US-VETS.

## Army

100th Inf. Div., 397th Rgt., Co. A #12507  
101st A/B Div. Assn. #16090  
101st Cav. Grp., 101st/116th Recon. Sqs. (WWII) #15717  
101st MP Assn. #18476  
103rd Inf. Div. (WWII) #21864  
103rd Inf. Div., 410th Rgt., C Co. (WWII) #15843  
103rd Inf. Div., Signal Co. #14063  
104th Inf. Div., 415th Rgt., AT Co. #15894  
105th Engr. P&C&R Grp. (WWII East Coast Chpt) #12256  
106th Inf. Div., 591st FA #18405  
108th Evac. Hospital 50th Anniv #10766  
108th Rgt., Co. K (WWII) #12430  
109th Evac. Hospital #22829  
10th Signal Co. (WWII), FT CLAYTON PANAMA CANAL #22304  
110th Evac. Hospital #22514  
112th Cav. Rgt. Assn. (WWII) #15841  
12th Sta. Hosp., 263rd Gen. Hosp. (California) #10479  
16th AAA Gun Bn., D Btry. #28284  
16th A/B Div., 503rd Inf. Rgt., Co. A #15255  
11th AAA AW Bn.(SP) (All Eras) #16066  
11th Arm'd Div. Assn. #16052  
11th Ord Field Maint Co. (WWII) #12594  
120th Evac. Hosp. (ETO WWII) #11768  
121st AAA Bn./421st Rocket FA Bn. NVNG #16548  
122nd Station Hospital #16284  
125th AAA Gun Bn. (WWII) #15565

125th (C) Engr. Bn. #12644  
1277th (C) Engr. #22017  
1284th Engr. (C) Bn. (WWII) #10854  
135th (C) Engr. Bn. #12643  
135th AAA Gun Bn. #20630  
138th Engr. Combat Bn. #10347  
138th/198th/452nd FA Bns. Assn. #10370  
1392nd Forestry Engr. #18653  
13th FA Bn. #20807  
13th Station Hospital #1576  
1402nd Engr. (C) Assn. #12539  
141st Sig. Corps #20236  
142nd FA, 142nd Ord. HM #22834  
144th AAA Bn., Btry. C #13000  
146th Engineer Combat Batt #21745  
1474th Engr. Maint. Co. (WWII) #12169  
148th Arm'd Signal Co. #10299  
148th General Hospital (Hawaii/Saipan) #10079  
14th Avn. Bn., 174th Assault Helicopter Co. #12576  
14th Cav. Grp. WWII #12541  
153rd Engr. Constn. Bn. #15496  
157th Engr. (C) Bn. (WWII) #15588  
159th FA Bn., Btry C Korea #12592  
15th Evac. Hospital - (WWII) #16447  
162nd General Hospital (WWII) #14209  
164th Engr. (C) Bn. #16517  
169th Engr. Bn., Co. A (Long Binh 1970/71) #12639  
16th Arm'd Div.: 137th Ord. Maint. Bn. #15459  
16th FA Bn. Assn. #15964  
16th Sig Oper. Bn. #12423  
16th Sig. Oper. Bn. (1951/53) #20006  
172nd Engr. (C) Bn., Co. A, B, C & HO (WWII) #15300  
172nd FA Bn. Assn. #15964  
17th Signal Engr. Assn. #16377  
185th Signal Bn., Co. B #16348  
187th Airborne RAKKASANS Assn. #22142  
187th Sig. Repair Co. #16117  
1881st Engr. Aviation Bn. #20329  
18th Cav. Recon. Sq. (WWII) #12487  
1901st Engr. Avn. Bn. (WWII) #12455  
191st Chemical Depot Co. #13808  
195th Ord. Dpt. (Korea) #21866  
19th Combat Engr Bn Assn Vietnam #12823  
1st Air Cav., 7th Sq. (7/1 ACS) "Blackhawk" Assn. #11917  
1st Arm'd Div. Assn. #16195  
1st Cav. Div. Assn. #16387

1st Cav. Div., 50th Inf. 1st Bn (Mechanized) #12552  
1st Corps, Med Bn., Co. B #12445  
1st Engr. Spec. Bde., Incl. 531st Shore Rgt. & Spt. Units #14560  
1st MP Co. (1945/51) #15457  
1st Ord. Maint. Co. (1948-1952) #12601  
1st Special Serv. Force (AB) #16100  
202nd AAA AW Bn. #1073  
202nd MP Co., II Corps #15384  
203rd OM Gas Supply Bn., Co. A #22827  
204th FA Bn. "Lil' Joe" (WWII) #22783  
207th FA Bn./2nd Bn., 158th FA Rgt. #22622  
207th MP Co. (1941-45) #11531  
20th Engr. (C) Rgt., 20th & 1340 Bns., 1171 Grp. HO (WWII) #15365  
20th Tank Bn., D Co. #15363  
212TH Signal Dpt #20188  
214th CA (AA) Georgia Nat Guard (WWII) #10421  
226th AAA S/L Bn., Btry C #22232  
227th AAA S/L Bn. (All Btrys./WWII) #15992  
243rd Port Co. #10580  
24th Inf. Div.: 26th AAA Bn., D Btry. (1952/54) #11470  
254th Ord. Co. M.M. (Africa 1942/45) #18428  
258th FA Bn./991st FA Bn. #14290  
258th FA Bn. #15943  
25th Inf. Div. Assn. (Korean Veterans) #15338  
25th Inf. Div. Assn. (PTO WWII) #22990  
25TH Inf. Div., 13th Art. Rgt., 3rd Bn., Co. A #12578  
25th Inf. Div., 35th Rgt., H Co. #12545  
25th Inf. Div., 9th FA Bn. (Korea) #20414  
25th Inf. Div.: 80th FA (Korea 1950/53) #10354  
260th AAA Arty. Assn. (DCNG) #10312  
260th CA AA, DCNG - (& later units, WWII & Korea) #11064  
262ND OM Bakery Co. #20113  
268th FA Bn. (WWII) #20213  
268th/340th FA Bns. #10092  
273rd FA Bn. (WWII) #10686  
27th AAA HO Grp. (WWII) #12632  
27th Engr. (C) Bn. (WWII) #10006  
27th Inf. Div. Assn. #16042  
27th Inf. Div., 102nd Med. Bn. #21858  
282nd FA Bn. #15259  
283rd FA Bn. (WWII) #15643  
284th FA Bn. (WWII) #15526  
286th FA Bn. (WWII) #13002  
289th Engr. (C) Bn. #15261  
28th Inf. Div., 102nd Rgt., Co. L #12547  
28th Inf. Div., 110th Rgt., 2nd Bn., HO & HO Co. (1950/52) #16290  
295TH JASCO #20776  
298th Gen. Hospital #10880  
29th Sig. Grp. (USACG Thailand) #12495  
2nd Arm'd Div., 702nd Tank Destroyer Bn., Co. Assn. #28392  
2nd Engr. Bde. (SP) #23116  
2nd FA Obsn. Bn. (WWII) #15136  
2nd Inf. Div., 23rd Rgt., Co. F. (WWII) #15459  
2nd. Engr. Bde. #1809  
301st Ord. Heavy Maint. Co. #16241  
303rd Station Hospital #10941  
304th Ord Rgt. (B), 2nd Bn., 611th OBAM Co. #11304  
304th Sig. Ops. Bn. (Texas P.I. WWII) #12485  
304th Station Hospital #10175  
305th MP Escort Guard Co. #12362  
309th MG Refrig. Co. (Fixed) - (WWII) #15459  
30th FA Bn.: All Units #11472  
3169th Sig Ser Bn. DS Seabone Comm Det, Weerona #12543  
317th Barrage Balloon Bn. #12429  
3207th OM Serv. Bn. #16263  
321st Signal Co. Refrig #14115  
321st Ord. Dpt #2614  
32nd Sig. Const. Bn. (WWII) #16660  
337th/1338th Const. Bn. #15779  
338th Engr. (C) Bn. (WWII) #16054  
33rd Inf. Div., 130th Medical Det #12536  
32nd Rgt. Inf. Combat Team. (Panama 1950/55) #11852  
400th Combat Engrs. #20729  
3482nd Ord., MAM Co. (WWII) #15832  
34th Inf. Div., 134th Rgt., Co. L (Italy, WWII) #12618  
34th Inf. Div., 135th Rgt., 3rd Bn. (WWII) #15627  
351st Trest Army Grp 1950/55 #12549  
357th AAA S/L Bn. (WWII) #16628  
359th Tms. Co. #21792  
36th Inf. Div., 142nd Rgt., B Co. #12133  
371st Engr. Bn. (WWII) #16621  
37th Inf. Div., 129th Rgt., 1st Bn., A/O/D/HO Cos. #20564  
37th Inf. Div., 148th Rgt. (Camp Perry, Ohio) #10632  
382nd AAA AW Bn. #20197  
38th Engr. (C) Rgt. WWII #16637  
38th Inf. Div. Assn. #22857  
38th Inf. Div., 151st Rgt., L Co. #10224  
38th Signal Const. Bn. WWII & 1986/91 #10198  
3rd Arm'd Div., 486th AAA Bn. (WWII) #11390  
3rd General Hospital (WWII) #10111  
3rd Inf. Div. Western Region Assn. #16410  
3rd Inf. Div., 9th FA Bn. (WWII) #10067  
400th AAA AW Bn., C Btry. (WWII) #10389  
4025th Sig Ser Bn WWII #12415  
40th Cav. Recon. Trp. (WWII) #16208  
40th Inf. Div., 108th Rgt., K Co. (WWII) #15356  
40th Inf. Div., 160th Rgt., Mortar Co (H) #11738  
410th Engr. C Bn. #12571  
422nd Sig Co. #21511  
423rd CA, AAA Bn., D Btry. (WWII) #14768  
42nd Engr. ECBC/ECBC #22056  
440th, 465th, & 472nd Signal Heavy Const. Bn. (1942-Present) Inc AF #10154  
449th Engr. Base Depot Co. #30042  
449th AAA AW Bn., B Btry. #10825  
449th MP Bn. #15190  
44th Cav. Recon. Trp. #15293  
44th Engr. (C) Bn. Assn. (WWII) #16518  
44th Inf. Div., 71st Rgt., I Co. (WWII) #10640  
44th Inf. Div.: 324th Rgt. (WWII) #11108  
44th Inf. Div., 108th Rgt., B Co. #11496  
453rd AAA AW Bn. #14196  
45th Cav. Recon. Trp. (WWII) #15491  
45th Inf. Div., 279th Rgt., K Co. (B Korea) #17902  
45th Inf. Div.: 179th Rgt., B Co. (WWII) #16267  
45th Inf. Div.: 180th Rgt., B Co. (Korea 1950/51) #14785  
45th TAAAM Co. (1951/54) #15417  
464th AAA CA Bn. #20812  
465th FA Bn. Assn. (1921/55) #28345  
465th FA Bn., ND Reserves (Camp McCoy/Germany) #10909  
471st AAA AW Bn. #10071  
472nd AAA Bn. #11250  
472nd Med Bn. (WWII) #20831  
479th Amph. Trk Co., 1st Engr. Spec. Bde. #10682  
482nd Med. Coll. Co. (Sep) #15211  
488th AAA Bn. Assn. #20390  
487th AAA Bn., B Btry. #15973  
487th Engr. W.S. Rgt. #12546  
488th Engr. LP Co. WWII #13860  
489th Port Bn. WWII #10133  
491st Engr. Base Equip. Co. #15777  
491TH AAA GUN. Bn. #20726  
49th Engr. W.S. Rgt. #15402  
501st Parachute Bn. Assn. (Original) #16433  
509th Engr. (P-B) #15378  
50th Engrs., A Co. #15659  
50th Gen. Hospital (WWII) #10468  
51th AAA AW Bn., Btry D (1951-55) #20742  
513th Engr. (LP) Co. (WWII) #16703  
524th MP Bn. #10437  
526th Arm'd Inf. Bn. (WWII) #11216  
527th Med Bn. (WWII) #15593  
530th FA Bn., 252nd CA #20198  
530th OM Serv Bn. #20309  
531st AAA AW Bn. #21665  
532nd EB & SR, E Co. (WWII) #10152  
532nd FOB Germany, 1956/57 #13004  
533rd E.B. & S.R. Rgt. #12546  
534th AAA Bn. (All Batteries) #21047  
534th AAA Bn., A Btry. #10970  
535th FA Bn. #14146  
538th OM Serv Bn. Btry. D Co. #28380  
53rd CA Div., Ft. Lauderdale FL 1942/44

12593  
543rd EB & SR, Co. B - (All amphib)  
#15435  
547th Engr. (C) Bn. #16046  
548th Engr. (C) Bn. #16046  
549th Engr. (C) Bn. #16046  
551st AAA Bn. (WWII) 50th Anv #16307  
550th AAA AW Bn. #16668  
557th Signal Co. #15751  
551st AAA AW Bn. C Btry. (WWII)  
#15641  
552nd Engr. Boat & Shore Bn. (Admiralty  
Is. 1944) #12113  
553rd EB & SR, A Co. #10128  
554th Engr. & S. Bn., HQ Co. #20711  
554th Engr. & S. Bn., Co C #12544  
559th Engr. Conbat Co. (1951/53) #22902  
5th Engr. Rgt., 127th Engr. (C) Bn. (WWII)  
#12344  
5th Engr. Rgt., 127th Engr. (C) Bn. (WWII)  
#12346  
5th Engr. Rgt., 5th Engr. (C) Bn. (WWII)  
#12347  
5th Engr. (C) Bn., A Co. (Germany-  
1951/53) #15952  
602nd Camouflage Engr. Bn. #16635  
602nd Camouflage Bn. (WWII) #22723  
609th OM Graves Registration #14232  
60th Artillery, 4th Bn. Vietnam #12566  
60th Engr. (C) Bn. Assn. #16615  
611th OBAM Bn. #10257  
612th Bakery Bn., 156/157/158/159th  
Cos #15602  
625th Engr., L.E. Co. #11060  
626th L.E. Engrs 1943/Present #12542  
62nd Arm'd FA Bn. Assn. #11245  
62nd Signal Bn., Co. B Assn. #22198  
63rd Engr. Bn. #10687  
63rd Inf. Div., Assn. #10335  
63rd Inf. Div., 253rd Rgt., F Co. (WWII)  
#14111  
643rd Tank Destroyer Vets Assn. 50th An-  
v #15920  
643RD TD Bn. #20771  
64th Topo. Engr. Bn. (WWII) #12515  
65th AAA Gun Bn., B Btry. (Okinawa  
1952/53) #16043  
65th Inf. Div. Assn. (Camp Shanks, Shel-  
by, Luckey Strike, Inns River WWII)  
#12207  
65th Inf. Div. Assn. (Rhinehead, Central  
Eur. WWII) #10922  
66th FA Bn. #12590  
66th Med Clearing Co. #12606  
672nd Amphib Trac Bn. #13866  
674th Sig. Aw Co. (Spec) #10379  
67th AA Gun Bn., C Btry. (WWII) #10177  
67th AA Gun Bn., C Btry. #14147  
6834th/2574th Re-Armament Rgt. #12426  
682nd TD Bn. #15601  
69th Arm'd Bn. (Past & Present) #12212  
69th Gen. Hospital (Lido, India) #16194  
69th Inf. Div., 461st AAA Bn. #12343  
69th Inf. Div., 681st TD Bn. #12341  
69th Inf. Div., 77th Tank Bn. #12342  
69th Inf. Div., 800th FA Bn., HQ Btry. Assn  
#15571  
69th Recon. Troop WWII #16720  
69th Signal Bn. (WWII) #16674  
6th Helicopter/150th Trans. Maint. Co.  
#11292  
6th Inf. Div., 1st FA Bn., C Btry. #12848  
701st Tank Bn. (WWII) #11393  
70th Inf. Div. #13005  
710th Tank Bn. #16393  
710th MP (Vietnam) #14163  
71st Cmt. Mort. Bn./47th AAA AW Bn.  
#15375  
720th MP Bn. Assn (All Eras) #10481  
726th MP Bn., Co A (Korea) #16274  
73th Railway Oper. Bn. #15649  
74th Engr. (H) Shop Co. #12446  
74th Engr. Bn., Co. A #12638  
75th Tank Bn., A Co #12613  
753rd Tank Bn. #10457  
76th FA Bn. Assn. #20860  
762nd Tank Bn WWII #12375  
77th TD Assn. #15680  
77th Tank Bn. (WWII) #11109  
78th FA Bn. (Korea) #10349  
78th MP Bn. D Co. WWII #11068  
78th Inf. Div., 309th Rgt., G Co #21556  
78th Inf. Div., 310th Rgt., B Co #15466  
78th Signal Co. #15719  
792nd AAA AW Bn. (WWII) #16103

79th FA Grp., 697th/698th FA Bns., HQ  
Bty. #16019  
7th Arm'd Div., 9th Arm'd Grp., HQ Co.  
1945 #12608  
7th Arm'd Div., 32nd Rgt., #15253  
7th Corps, HQ & G Co. (WWII) #12550  
7th Inf. Div., 32nd Rgt. "Queens Own"  
WWII/KOREA #15855  
7th Inf. Div., 7th RCT, Co. M #12634  
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813th TD Bn., C Co. (WWII) #15817  
818TH TD BN. #20952  
81st Inf. Div. "Wildcats Assn" Eastern Chap  
#15974  
81st Inf. Div. "Wildcats" Rgt. #12340  
81st Inf. Div., 322nd Rgt., C Co. "Wildcat  
Div" WWII #10925  
81st Inf. Div. Assn. "WILDCATS" (Western  
Chptr. WWII-WWII) #20950  
81st Inf. Div., 317th FA Bn., HQ Btry.  
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822nd Tank Destroyer Bn. (WWII) #15247  
829th Signal Corp Co (Algeria N Africa)  
#12532  
832nd Sig. Ser. Bn. #14071  
836th Engr. Avn. Bn. #10973  
83rd Arm'd Bn. (WWII) #22723  
842nd Avn Bn. #16294  
851st Avn. Engr. Bn. #14884  
854th Engr. (C) Bn. "Spearheaders"  
#16653  
854th Engr. Hosp. (Cui Nhon, S Vietnam  
1965-1966) #12560  
85th Inf. Div., 337th Rgt., B Bn. #10425  
85th Inf. Div., 85th Rtn. Trp. #23106  
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869th AAA AW Bn., HQ Btry. (Hawaii)  
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Co. (1963/65) #12365  
916th Med. Amb. Co. #10293  
91st Cavalry Reg Sq #16177  
91st Chem. Bn. #15395  
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96th Chem. Mtr Bn #15226  
974th Engr. Maint. Co. #16308  
97th Engr. Hospital (WWII) #20637  
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25th NCB Spec. #17984  
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63rd NCB (WWII) #10755  
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Air Group 19 #12561  
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LCS (L) 1-130 National Association  
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LCS (L) 128 (1944/46) #14756  
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LSM-143 #12621  
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LST-48 WWII #12616  
LST-5 #11157  
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Va. (1942-1958) #20282  
Naval Mine Warfare Test Sta. (Solomons  
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896th Sig. Avn. Dpt Co. #10688  
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(1943/46) #22291  
OV-1 Mohawk Assn #22911  
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Pilot Class 42-E & F (Santa Anna) #21048  
Pilot Class 42-A (Randolf Fld.) #16774  
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Please turn to page 66

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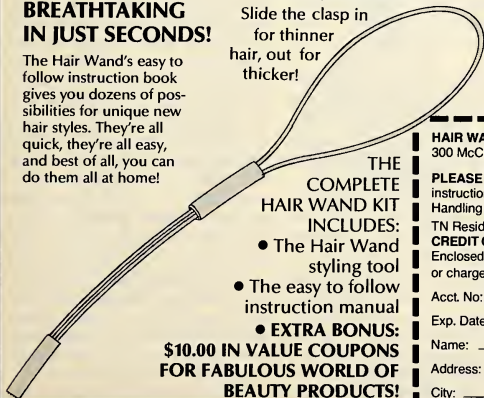
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France, wrote to urge that it not be ratified unless a bill of rights was appended ensuring freedom of press, speech, assembly and religion.

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government," he wrote, "I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

(Years later, as a victim of press attacks, Jefferson became more cynical. "Perhaps an editor might begin a reformation in some such way as this," he proposed in 1807. "Divide his paper into four chapters, heading the 1st, Truths. 2nd, Probabilities. 3rd, Possibilities. 4th, Lies. The first chapter would be very short.")

Ironically, politics was to Jefferson a duty more than a source of enjoyment. "Nature intended me for the tranquil pursuits of science, by rendering them my supreme delight," he once wrote. "But the enormities of the times in which I have lived have forced me to commit myself on the boisterous ocean of political passions."

Architecture, Jefferson said, was one of his greatest pleasures. His dream house, based on a neoclassical design derived from ancient Rome, sits atop one of the highest hills on his estate. He named it Monticello, Italian for "Little Mountain." Today it is one of the most admired houses in the world, visited by hundreds of thousands each year.

As Secretary of State in George Washington's first Administration, Jefferson was also involved in the building of our nation's Capitol. He suggested it be designed along classical Roman lines, setting a style echoed in government architecture throughout the nation. A decade later, as President, he even directed the planting of twin rows of Lombardy poplars along Pennsylvania Avenue.

Jefferson overflowed with enthusiasm for new technologies and kept obsessively busy from sunup to late at night. "He loved gadgets and information-gathering," says Douglas L. Wilson of Knox College in Galesburg, Ill. "If he were alive today, he would almost certainly be the ultimate computer freak."

He enjoyed skywatching with his telescope and gathered data on eclipses. He put a newfangled odometer

## Thomas Jefferson: In His Own Words

"I am for a government rigorously frugal and simple."

"Were we directed from Washington when to sow, and when to reap, we should soon want bread."

"There is a natural aristocracy among men. The grounds of this are virtue and talent."

"I have never been able to conceive how any rational being could propose happiness to himself from the exercise of power over others."

"Never suffer a thought to be harbored in your mind which you would not avow openly. When tempted to do anything in secret, ask yourself if you would do it in public. If you would not, be sure it is wrong."

"If we can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people, under the pretense of taking care of them, they must become happy."

"It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself."

"That government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part."

"Love your neighbor as yourself, and your country more than yourself."

on his carriage to measure distances between places and developed a code device to keep diplomatic secrets.

Above all else, Jefferson wanted passionately to understand nature.

"There is not a sprig of grass that grows uninteresting to me," he was fond of saying. He could recall the English and Latin names of many flowers and shrubs he encountered and briefly discourse on each. "The greatest service which can be rendered any country," he declared, "is to add a useful plant to its culture."

**J**EFFERSON collected fossils, including the claws of a Prehistoric giant ground sloth and the bones of a mastodon, an extinct relative of modern-day elephants. He was an influential early force in American paleontology.

At Monticello, millions of Americans have seen evidence of Jefferson's genius as a do-it-yourselfer. A weather vane attached to a ceiling compass let him know the wind's direction without going outdoors. He designed storm windows for the house and installed dumbwaiters within the panels of his fireplace to transport wine from the cellar. Most surprising to visitors in his own time, he devised an indoor privy

with a venting system, similar to modern toilets.

In matters of diet, he minimized meat and emphasized vegetables. "Jefferson," writes Wilson, "turns out to have been something of a health-food prophet."

In affairs of state, Jefferson was a risk-taker. As President he had to deal with the piratical rulers of North Africa's Mediterranean coast. Like Great Britain and France, the United States had paid protection money to deter hostage-taking. Terrorism had become so routine that fixed rates were charged for different classes of hostages—up to \$4,000 for an ordinary passenger.

Jefferson chose to send warships to bombard pirate seaports and launched U.S. forces in a daring overland commando raid—to the shores of Tripoli—on what is today Qaddafi's Libya. Attacks on American ships ceased in 1805.

At the beginning of Jefferson's first term, Napoleon regained the Louisiana Territory for France from Spain. In 1802, U.S. ships were blocked from depositing their goods at New Orleans for transfer to ocean going vessels.

When Jefferson's diplomats offered

to purchase New Orleans, French foreign minister Talleyrand asked if instead they wished to buy all of Louisiana. Jefferson had expected to pay up to \$10 million for the city of New Orleans and some additional land. Instead, the Americans were offered 828,000 square miles, a territory that doubled America's area, for only \$15 million. A practical man, Jefferson consummated the bargain of the century in 1803.

**P**RESIDENT Jefferson moved boldly in matters of style as well. He was an aristocrat who championed the rights of common people—and his behavior as host reflected that attitude. Unlike Washington and John Adams, he refused to bow when greeting guests, opting to shake hands.

If the food and wine served during his Administration were sophisticated, the tone Jefferson set was relaxed. He helped popularize such then-exotic fare as champagne, ice cream and pasta. He frequently dined with his pet mockingbird, Dick, on his shoulder. And instead of assigned seating, he instituted a custom called Pell Mell: Guests could sit wherever they liked. Once he enraged the highbrow British ambassador by meeting him in lounging clothes and slippers.

In one important respect, however, Jefferson seemed anchored firmly in his time. Not one day passed in Jefferson's adult life that he was not a slaveowner. How can that be reconciled with his lifelong dedication to the rights of humankind?

Turn the question around, writes Professor Wilson, and ask, "How did a man born into a slave-holding society, whose family and friends owned slaves, who inherited a fortune dependent on slave labor, decide at an early age that slavery was wrong and forcefully declare that it ought to be abolished?"

Jefferson made several attempts, chiefly through statutory measures, to do away with slavery. His denunciation of the slave trade was removed from the Declaration of Independence at the insistence of the delegations from Georgia and South Carolina—to Jefferson's consternation.

Late in life, Jefferson achieved one of his greatest dreams—the creation of a state university in Virginia. From Monticello, peering through his telescope, Jefferson could keep an eye on its construction two miles away. The University of Virginia opened on March 7, 1825.

At Jefferson's suggestion, the school of medicine included a clinic where the

poor could receive treatment at little or no cost, and smallpox vaccinations were free to all.

Jefferson died quietly at 12:50 p.m. on the Fourth of July, 1826. He specified that only three things be listed on his tombstone: Author of the Declaration of Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and Father of the University of Virginia.

No mention that he had been President, Vice President, Secretary of State, governor of Virginia, member of Congress, minister to France. These honors were "things the People have

done for me," Jefferson explained. He wished to be remembered openly for "things I have done for the People."

When admirers wanted to make his birthday a holiday, Jefferson refused, saying that only the Republic's birthday—the Fourth of July—merited such veneration. Though we have no official day to honor him, Thomas Jefferson lives in the heart and mind of everyone who reads or speaks or prays in freedom. On the 250th anniversary year of his birth, we citizens of what he called the Empire of Liberty salute the author of that liberty. □

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# INVASION!

*Continued from page 23*

was conducted in the name of the United Nations, but the U.N. had no force of its own. The United States and the ROK assumed the primary burden of the fighting.

Truman ordered an evacuation of Americans in Korea and authorized Gen. MacArthur, in charge of all U.S. forces in Asia, to send ammunition and military equipment from Japan and Okinawa to the South Korean forces.

On June 30, Truman committed U.S. ground troops and ordered a naval blockade of the Korean coast. The same day, the British ordered their Far Eastern Fleet to give aid.

President Truman—who did not have a congressional declaration of war—said, “We are not at war.” In answer to a press conference question, he said it would be correct to call the fighting in Korea “a police action under the United Nations.”

Truman was to say later that his decision to commit U.S. forces to Korea was to check Soviet desires of world domination, consistent with his policy of containment of global communism.

“If the communists were permitted to force their way into the Republic of Korea without opposition from the free world,” he was to explain, “no small nation would have the courage to resist threats and aggression by stronger communist neighbors.”

The ROK forces responded quickly, but could do little to stem the advancing tide. They faced the invaders with about 38,000 troops—undermanned, understrength and underequipped. The 150 tanks of the North Koreans were Russian-built T-34s, and the South Koreans had little if anything able to stop them, neither effective bazookas nor anti-tank mines.

The ROK troops were unable to hold back the offensive and retreated, often in disarray.

Seoul fell on Wednesday, June 28, the fourth day of the invasion. As the South Korean forces retreated south, they left behind much of their equipment.

Beginning on July 5, elements of the U.S. Army's 24th Infantry Division, under the command of Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, were quickly flown from Japan in an effort to delay the advancing North Koreans.

The 24th's Task Force Smith, actual-

## GENERAL DEAN

*Continued from page 23*

Born in Carlyle, Ill., Dean attended the University of California where he got a commission as second lieutenant in the Infantry Reserve before joining the Regular Army. In WWII, he commanded the 44th Inf. Div. in Germany and Austria and earned the Distinguished Service Cross among other military honors.

On July 2, 1950, after the surprise invasion, the 51-year-old Dean was called upon to lead green U.S. troops against the North Koreans.

During fighting in Taejon's shattered streets on July 20, Dean repeatedly fired his .45 at on-rushing enemy tanks. “I wasn't silly enough to expect to do anything with a pistol,” he was to recall years later. “That was just plain rage and frustration—just Dean losing his temper again and doing something foolish.”

On that day, he was cut off from his main force and wandered around for a month dazed after falling down a steep slope. He spent 20 days without food, and was finally captured on Aug. 26—his 24th wedding anniversary.

Shortly after, he was reported missing in action—the North Koreans did not tell anyone he was a prisoner for more than a year. Dean was awarded the Medal of Honor, the first one given in the Korean War. As the North Koreans' prime prisoner of war, he underwent severe grillings and threats of torture before his release on Sept. 4, 1953.

After the war, he served as deputy commander of the Sixth Army in San Francisco. Dean retired in 1955 after 32 years in the Army. He died in 1981. □

ly the 1st Battalion of the 21st Regiment, was a hurriedly assembled force of two infantry companies and an artillery unit which were pulled with little notice or preparation from occupation duty in Japan. Like the South Koreans, they, too, were ill-prepared for a major conflict.

Task Force Smith, named for its commander, Lt. Col. Charles Bradford Smith, was sent out with orders to “stop

the enemy where you find them.” They found them on a hillside near Osan, 22 miles south of Seoul: a column of North Korean infantry in trucks and 33 T-34 tanks.

The 400-plus troops of Task Force Smith had little chance. “We just didn't have what we needed to do the job,” said one soldier. They found their bazookas were too light to do any damage. “All we could do is scratch the paint on the tanks and annoy the tankers,” said a platoon leader. They were badly mauled by the enemy and finally ordered to withdraw, suffering heavy casualties.

For two weeks, the inexperienced 24th battled around Taejon, trading 100 miles and nearly 4,000 men to allow the 1st Cavalry Division and the 25th Infantry Division to join the South Koreans and form a defensive perimeter around the southeastern port of Pusan.

Gen. Dean himself was captured after a battle near Taejon and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner. (*For more about Dean, see Page 23.*)

Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker, commander of the Eighth Army, took charge of the ground forces in Korea, under MacArthur, who had been named Supreme United Nations Commander.

The quick entrance of Eighth Army units in force, plus United Nations air and naval power, blunted North Korean hopes of a speedy conquest of all South Korea after breaking through the Han River defenses south of Seoul. North Korean supply lines, already stretched by their advance, were hard hit by U.S., British and Australian planes.

U.N. troops continued to come in through the Pusan port. Among them were the 2nd Infantry Division, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade and the British 27th Infantry Brigade. United Nations air power increased, striking from aircraft carriers and bases in Japan. Mobile reserves were shifted from one threatened area to another.

The North Korean offensive was delayed, but still threatened to drive U.N. forces off the Korean peninsula altogether. They were driving on Taegu just northwest of Pusan at the beginning of September.

The allies had been shoved southward into a box on the southeast of the mountainous peninsula. The beachhead had shrunk to an area roughly 50 miles wide and 70 miles deep.

Yet, Gen. Walker proclaimed: “Our lines will hold.”

He would need help, however, decisive help. It was to come in a most dramatic way. □

## INCHON

Continued from page 27

Kim Il Sung to give up. Kim didn't respond.

Two divisions of South Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel on Sunday, Oct. 1, 1950. By mid-October, North Korean positions above Seoul were overrun by the U.S. 1st Cavalry and 24th Infantry divisions, the 1st ROK and the 27th British Brigade, aided by an Australian battalion. U.N. forces had captured more than 55,000 prisoners by early October and were concentrating on North Korean guerrilla activity in the south, while regrouping north of the 38th parallel in an area that was to become known as the "Iron Triangle."

On Oct. 20, after a two-day fight, the Eighth Army took Pyongyang and headed north toward the Yalu. When X Corps troops came ashore at Wonsan a few days later, the tide seemed to have turned, and there was even talk of "home by Christmas."

By now, MacArthur was nearing the point beyond which only South Korean troops were to be used. And there was evidence of Chinese "volunteer" troops crossing the border into North Korea.

By November, American forces in Korea had risen to include seven divisions: the 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 24th and 25th infantry divisions, the 1st Cavalry Division and the 1st Marine Division. The South Korean army had six divisions and other nations had units ranging in size from battalions to brigades.

With these forces at his disposal on Nov. 24, MacArthur began what many people thought would be the final offensive in the defeat of North Korea.

Then came the Chinese horde, and with them came an entirely new war. □

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## CHINESE ENTER

*Continued from page 30*

Seoul fell for a second time on Jan. 4, 1951, but U.N. lines held further south, at Wonju. Lt. Gen. Matthew Ridgway, the new Eighth Army commander (Gen. Walton Walker had been killed in a jeep accident), had made use of air superiority and tactical strategy to halt the enemy offensive by mid-January.

The U.N. forces then conducted a counterattack officially called "Operation Killer." They retook Suwon, Incheon and the Kimp'o airfield, followed by Seoul in mid-March and Chunchon. They reached the 38th parallel in late March and early April. By then, the Eighth Army and X Corps had regained the same positions on either side of the border as they had in the beginning.

MacArthur, seeing what he called "an entirely new war" after the full commitment of the Chinese, had sought approval to take the war into China in "hot pursuit" and attack the enemy "sanctuaries" in Manchuria. President Truman and the United Nations allies, however, feared Soviet military retaliation and decided against MacArthur's wishes.

MacArthur continued to make public statements disagreeing with the political decision. On April 11, Truman decided the general had gone too far, and he fired him.

A small brown envelope with "flash" printed on it in red was delivered to MacArthur in Tokyo. The message inside said, "I deeply regret that it becomes my duty as President and Commander in Chief of the United States military forces to replace you as Supreme Commander, Allied Powers; Commander in Chief, Far East; Commanding General, U.S. Army, Far East." Truman said MacArthur was "unable to give his wholehearted support" to U.S. and U.N. policies and that "military commanders must be governed by policies and directives of the government."

Ridgway was named MacArthur's successor and Lt. Gen. James Van Fleet took over the Eighth Army.

In spring 1951, the Chinese communists launched their largest and costliest offensive of the war. They lost 166,000 men during May alone and at the beginning of June, U.N. forces had basically regained the same ground they

held in mid-April.

The Eighth Army launched another offensive late in May, as it advanced toward the "Iron Triangle" in central Korea. On June 1, U.N. Secretary General Trygve Lie proposed a cease-fire along the 38th parallel—back where it all began. Soviet Ambassador Yakov Malik also called for a cease-fire, and the Chinese indicated a willingness to talk.

While preliminary talks were being held at Kaesong, troops fortified their positions on the battlefield. Throughout the summer of 1951, it became a struggle to control ridges and hills, as both sides attempted to improve their positions.

But there would be two more years of talk, and two more years of fighting. □

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their posts.

Life membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

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## ARMISTICE

*Continued from page 33*

ships stalked the coast, pouring shells into enemy territory. Night and day for nearly two years Allied warships hurled shells at Wonsan, an important rail and road junction.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the hero of World War II and D-Day, had been elected the new President of the United States in November with a campaign promise that included going to Korea to end the war.

He made the trip in secret in December. In three dramatic, action-packed days, he viewed the war in person and returned with hope that his journey would prod a peace agreement. He noted, realistically, that there was "much to be done."

Indeed, serious truce negotiations were not to resume until the end of March 1953. In the meantime, Gen. Mark Clark had replaced Gen. Matthew Ridgway, and Gen. James Van Fleet had retired, being replaced by Gen. Maxwell Taylor.

Clark proposed an exchange of sick and wounded prisoners and the Chinese agreed. The exchange began at Panmunjon on April 20, and armistice negotiations resumed a week later.

The prisoner-of-war question was finally resolved in June. It had been languishing since the spring of 1952, when the communists walked out of the peace talks after the International Red Cross announced that less than half of the 132,000 North Korean and Chinese prisoners wanted to go back home. Under the final agreement, prisoners who still refused repatriation would be released to civilian status in South Korea four months after the signing of an armistice.

At 10 a.m. Korean time, Sunday, July 27, 1953, on a freshly lacquered table in a makeshift pagoda in Panmunjon, an armistice agreement was signed, ending 37 months of war. The truce talks had spanned two years and 17 days, in all, 575 meetings. The agreement set up a demilitarized "buffer" zone straddling the 38th parallel. The armistice was signed by Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison for the United Nations and Gen. Nam Il for North Korea and China. There was no South Korean representation.

Fighting continued virtually up to the signing. The cease-fire officially went into effect 12 hours later.

During the three years of war, 16 member-nations of the United Nations had armed units in action in support of the the Republic of Korea. Over 90 percent of the ground forces were from the United States and South Korea, and half or the remaining troops were from British Commonwealth nations.

A total of some 2.4 million soldiers were killed or wounded. The United States counted 54,246 dead—33,629 of those combat deaths—and 103,284 wounded.

There still is no peace treaty between the two Koreas. □

## KOREA TODAY

*Continued from page 35*

militarized zone that has separated them since the end of World War II. Reunification of the peninsula remains but a dream on both sides.

On the 5th of every month in Seoul, sirens wail, pedestrians run to shelters and motorists pull to the side of the road. The drills remain testimony to

the uncertainty of South Korea's future. Another North Korean attack is never far from the people's minds.

They worry about a military strike as North Korea becomes increasingly isolated and impoverished, while they prosper. They worry about what will happen after the death of Kim Il Sung, who has ruled North Korea since World War II.

And they worry about North Korea's long-rumored program to develop nuclear weapons.

North Korea started building its third nuclear plant at Yongbyon in 1985. It is now the center of the nation's nuclear facilities. North Korea also has withdrawn from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, fostering suspicions that it is indeed developing atomic weapons.

From another viewpoint, perhaps the most intriguing change of all is the growing number of American veterans of the war who are returning to Korea for visits. GIs came back from the unpopular war to the conservative American society of the 1950s. Forty years later, many of them are now retired and reflective, and they are revisiting the killing fields to deal with their memories. □

## KOREAN MEMORIAL

*Continued from page 32*

to families of Korean War dead or missing.

Among other scheduled events are a memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery and a banquet honoring Korean War veterans. Officials will unveil a painting commissioned by Coors Brewing Co. to commemorate the 40th anniversary.

For invitations to the family tribute, call (202) 783-4665 no later than July 14. Banquet reservations and more information on other events may be obtained by calling (518) 371-7816 or writing: the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Coordinating Committee, P.O. Box 7025, Alexandria, VA 22307. □

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Continued from page 20

ligious prayer. And I do think that we would be better served if this honoring of our nation and its heritage was without specific religious reference.

**Q.** From your perspective, why not oppose the references to God on the coins?

**A.** There are strong arguments for moving it. Those of us who are serious about religious practice are not happy by the presence of a reference to the deity in the same pocket as our used Kleenex.

I don't think that it affirms the spiritual nature of man or the spiritual aspects of our country to have coins imprinted with the phrase, "In God we trust."

It cheapens the very notion of respect for a deity. But it has become so much a routine part of American culture that I suspect what a court would say is that it has lost all of its religious significance.

But to some, it doesn't matter if things like this occur and lose religious significance.

To those of us who take religion seriously, it is disturbing that the popular culture has embraced and degraded religious language.

**Q.** Your group has been critical of the so-called religious right. I don't remember your organization opposing Rev. Martin Luther King and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

**A.** I don't think we had any objection to Rev. King promoting a civil rights agenda. We don't have any problem with Pat Robertson promoting his religious agenda throughout his religious broadcasting and political empire.

Where we draw the line is when those groups fail to draw the line. That's why we complained in 1988 when the Rev. Jesse Jackson was planning to raise money for his political campaign in America's churches—a so-called Super Sunday. Likewise, we rejected the idea that a New York church could take out full-page ads telling people not to vote for Bill Clinton.

When people violate the tax laws in this country by being a nonprofit group seeking to endorse or oppose candidates, whether they're on the left or the

## THE LEGION'S POSITION

**T**HE AMERICAN LEGION reaffirmed its support of prayer in public schools and public gatherings last August at the 74th National Convention in Chicago. Through resolutions 41 and 547, the Legion calls for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would permit voluntary prayer in public schools. The Legion also continues to urge Congress to pass legislation to promote school prayer. □

right, we say they have done wrong.

**Q.** What's wrong with parents receiving vouchers or credits so they can decide what school to send their children to, whether it be public, private or parochial?

**A.** We have no problem with school choice in public schools. But as soon as you give tax credits, tax deductions or vouchers, these offend the principle that taxpayers should not be forced to pay for anyone's religious education.

**Q.** But the GI Bill gave a veteran the chance to go to Notre Dame, for example?

**A** There's a long line of Supreme Court cases that make it clear that, once you're involved in higher education, there's a somewhat different standard for looking at the establishment clause and potential violations. And some of these places, such as Notre Dame in particular, are not entirely sectarian. Most of the religious schools, elementary and high school, are pervasively sectarian.

**Q.** Your bias in favor of public schools means that only the rich are going to have the choice to send their children to private or parochial schools. You're not bothered by that?

**A.** I resent the implication that it's a bias. I'm simply saying that one has a choice under our Constitution. Our Constitution does not guarantee that everyone in America will have the same opportunities financially. I should point out that parents couldn't afford most of the private religious schools under any of the choice plans.

**Q.** In the Lamb's Chapel case now before the Supreme Court, a public school banned religious groups from its property after school hours even though nonreligious groups were al-

**lowed in. Where do you stand on this?**

**A.** I'm convinced the Supreme Court will see the light in the Lamb's Chapel case and will say that this afterschool activity in this public forum should include religious groups. Pat Robertson's legal people are on the same side as we are on this one.

**Q.** The fact that the Lamb's Chapel case has gone to the Supreme Court proves that the pendulum has swung to the opposite extreme—government officials are going out of their way to inhibit the free exercise of religion.

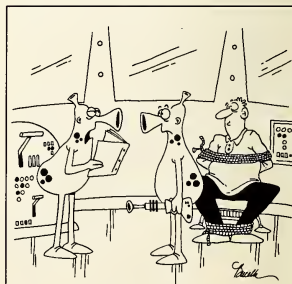
**A.** Absolutely not. These are quirks. In the main, the problem is not that religious majorities are being persecuted, it is that religious minorities are being ignored and that government support is too often going to religious majorities.

Another important case before the Supreme Court involves the practice of Santaria, which includes animal sacrifice.

The city of Hialeah, Fla., barred any sacrifice of animals for religious purposes, although you can still buy Chicken McNuggets. It's absurd to say to a religious group that it cannot butcher an animal but say nothing to a fast-food store about butchering animals for eating purposes.

This was an effort to trample on the rights of this minority and largely misunderstood religious group. We've come to their defense.

The other important case is the Zobrest case. This involves whether tax dollars could be used to send an interpreter into a Catholic high school for a deaf child. Again, we think that parents have an absolute right to send their child to such a religious school, but not to expect the extra expenditure of tax dollars to translate religious doctrine. □



*"Throw him back.  
They're out of season."*

## HOME LOANS

Continued from page 16

hitch, too.

Nevertheless, since the change represents "a major revision to a long-standing basic provision" of the VA home loan program, VA plans to closely monitor and evaluate its impact to be certain a negotiated rate and the payment of points does not result in higher housing and borrowing costs for veterans.

The American Legion also is watching to make certain some lenders don't get together to illegally set rates artificially high, or increase the points. James Hubbard, the Legion's director of economics, hasn't seen any evidence of such collusion yet, but he's started a file and is interested in hearing from veterans who believe they've paid too much. (Write to him at The American Legion, 1608 K St., N.W., Washington, DC 20006-2847, or call (202) 861-2700.)

Hubbard is concerned lenders are being allowed to determine rates and "fatten" their purses by charging excessive points, even though they are assuming no greater risk.

"Our fear is that lenders will get together on rates and points, and that they won't be truly negotiated but rather what the banks want them to be," he says. "Maybe we're wrong, but we're sure going to keep our eyes open. If we don't find anything, that will be great, but we will be on the lookout."

There is no ceiling on the amount of money that can be borrowed under the VA program. The limit is on the amount the government will guarantee.

The current maximum guarantee is \$46,000. And since lenders accept the guarantee as a substitute for up to a 25-percent downpayment, eligible veterans can borrow as much as \$184,000 to build or purchase a house without putting up any of their own money.

You can borrow more than \$184,000 with a VA loan—and you can spend as much for a house as you like—as long as you put up enough cash for a satisfactory downpayment. You also can borrow less and put up some of your own money to reduce your monthly payments.

For various reasons, only 13.6 million veterans, or less than half of the 29 million former GIs who are eligible, have ever used their entitlement.

But Keith Pedigo, director of the VA's loan guarantee service, expects deregulation to "breathe new life" into the

program, which has been declining because many veterans have aged beyond their prime home-buying years.

To give the program an additional boost, Congress also voted to make refinancing less expensive for veterans who have already used some or all of their eligibility. New changes also allow an estimated 500,000 Reservists and National Guardsmen to participate, even though they have not served on active duty.

The new rules reduce the funding fee for so-called "interest rate reduction financing" from 1.25 percent to 0.5 percent of the loan amount. On a \$100,000 mortgage, the savings would be \$750. But discount points on such loans can no longer be financed as part of the loan amount.

Reservists and Guardsmen are now eligible for VA home loan benefits as long as they have spent at least six years in the service. However, unlike active duty veterans, who are entitled to benefits for life and can use them over and over again, eligibility for Reservists and Guardsmen expires in six years, on Oct. 28, 1999.

The changes also require VA to test the feasibility of backing mortgages that combine the cost of an existing home with the cost of improvements to make it energy efficient. Known as energy-efficient mortgages (EEMs), these types of loans allow home buyers to qualify at higher debt-to-income ratios because of the savings in utility bills. □

## BLOOD DRIVE

Continued from page 50

local blood center or hospital blood bank. A brochure on how to establish a Post blood donor program is available from: National Security-Foreign Relations Division, The American Legion, 1608 K St., N.W., Washington, DC 20006.

"Blood donor programs enhance the Legion's image in communities and increase membership," Munson says.

"Many Posts nationwide have found that participation in The American Legion Blood Program is an excellent way to make a significant contribution to the health and welfare of the community. The Post gets credit for sponsoring a worthwhile event and the community benefits from a larger, safer blood supply." □

By T. Douglas Donaldson

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Continued from page 56

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MAG-25 SCAT WWII #21038  
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Mar. Det.: USS Kearsage CVA-33 #11502  
Mar. Det.: USS Missouri BB-63 (1947/51) #10343  
Marine 4.5" Rocket #10812  
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VMB-413 (WWII) #21041  
VMF-115 - (Joe Foss, commanding) #17073  
VMF-324 (1943/93) #22155  
VMF-422 (Corsairs WWII) #17126  
VMAF-312 "Checkerboard" (WWII) #12583  
VMA-3 1953/55 #14720  
VMSB-133 (incl. MAG-24 Units) #17113  
VMSB-241 (WWII) #17184  
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## VETVOICE

Continued from page 6

sistance Center in Detroit at (800) 392-3673. Hearing-impaired callers may reach us toll-free via TDD (800) 232-5952.

These efforts are paying off for Ford. In 1992, Ford won U.S. sales leadership in cars (Taurus) and trucks (F-series) and had five of the top 10 best-selling vehicles in the United States.

*Jerry M. Frick  
Manager,  
Ford Owner Relations Operations  
Detroit, Mich.*

When I drove about the U.S. Capitol recently, I noted that more than half the cars parked in spaces reserved for Capitol employees and congressional aides were foreign cars. As a four-year veteran of World War II, this is a crowning insult. Whose side are we on? Do we have an economic death wish?

*J. Lee Hudson  
Arlington, Va.*

According to a December 1992 article in *Popular Mechanics*, Hondas are made in Ohio; Toyotas are made in Kentucky; Mazdas are made in Michigan; Isuzus are made in Indiana; Pontiacs are made in South Korea; and Buicks and Fords are made in Mexico. So, pray tell, which ones are the foreign cars?

*Clyde Sloan  
Newport, Ore.*

## Name Calling

Steve Vogel ("The Politics of Hate," April) may understand German politics, but his comparison of the Ross Perot phenomenon to European nationalism is a gross insult to the many Americans who voted for Perot. The constituency Mr. Perot tapped is neither right nor left and it does not feed on an "us versus them" approach, as Mr. Vogel contends. The United We Stand approach is to pressure the politicians to pay the bills out of current revenues, hardly a radical concept.

*Tim A. Schuster  
Woodstock, N.Y.*

The article used the term "neo-Nazi" eight times and the term "far right" 21 times to describe the politics of Europe, with special emphasis on Germany. Because most of the prob-

lems in Germany are in the former communist sector, perhaps these problems are actually with neo-communists.

*John Guinn  
Minneapolis, Minn.*

## No New World Order

The last thing the world needs is the new world order or U.N. Legion ("A Better Way To Keep the Peace," March). Any organization powerful enough to force worldwide peace is also powerful enough to rule the world. This world government will come at the expense of our economy, and the sovereignty of this country, for which so many veterans have fought and given their lives for.

*Wally Urbick  
Mukilteo, Wash.*

## Winning Wars

Hats off to Harry G. Summers Jr. ("How Wars Are Won," April). As a Vietnam combat veteran, I've always contended that the defensive posture taken by the United States during both Vietnam and Korea was blatant nose-thumbing in the face of reason. The defensive posture just whittled away at the integrity of our military institution.

*Daniel W. Kavala  
Orlando, Fla.*

The article was riddled with contradictions, and some of the insinuations were a direct affront to our soldiers who served in Vietnam and Korea. GIs showed their guts and determination in Korea and Vietnam, too.

*William Prutzer  
Perkiomenville, Pa.*

## No To Nicaragua

I want to commend the Legion for the article "Democracy in Nicaragua: Still in Trouble" (April) by Elliott Abrams. It's terribly sad that the Sandinistas remained in power after what appeared to be an honest election. President Violeta Chamorro is obviously not in control. If cutting off aid would get the Sandinistas out and allow Chamorro to gain control, then it should be cut.

*Stanley Diamond  
San Francisco*

I believe we should not provide aid to Nicaragua because it will be used against the United States, instead of being used for the people of that country.

*David M. Robinson  
Austin, Texas*

## COMMANDER

Continued from page 8

Chiefs of Staff in supporting the ban must not be ignored!

**Enemy #4: Ignorance About Veterans.** Today, there is a lack of appreciation for veterans and the unique mission they are asked to perform. Instead of debating the gay rights agenda, Congress should be busy passing legislation that will help veterans find work and get more education.

Programs to assist unemployed veterans such as Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC), Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER), Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP), Disabled Transitional Assistance Program (DTAP), National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI), and Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) should be fully funded.

And a new GI Bill for Gulf War veterans (the Combat-Era Serviceperson's Readjustment Act of 1993) must be passed.

It will end the \$1,200 out-of-pocket contribution demanded of participants of the current GI Bill; raise the maximum monthly payment to \$777 from the current \$400; and authorize GI Bill benefits for reservists on active duty for more than 90 days, for reservists and National Guardsmen recalled to active duty for the Gulf War and for all service members who participated in the Montgomery GI Bill.

Let's get Congress in the right direction and let's do it today. ☐

## TAPS

Taps notices are limited to only those Legionnaires who have held high national or department offices. We regret that we cannot extend the honor to all members.

John E. Byrne, DE Department Vice Commander (1973-75), Department Commander (1975-76), Alternate National Executive Committee Member (1978-80), National Executive Committee Member (1980-82).  
Laurence Earle Carlson, MN Department Vice Commander (1983-84), Department Commander (1984-85).  
Robert W. Durand, NM Department Vice Commander (1970-71), Department Commander (1971-72), Alternate National Executive Committee Member (1973-75), National Executive Committee Member (1975-83).  
D. Ed Grove, AK Department Sergeant-at-Arms (1982-83), Department Vice Commander (1983-85), Department Commander (1985-86), Department Judge Advocate (1982-89).  
Carolyn B. Jarman, NC Department Vice Commander (1992-93).  
Herman A. Pierce, GA Department Vice Commander (1985-86).  
Andrew J. Steffanic, CA Department Vice Commander (1981-82), Department Commander (1988-89).  
Alternate National Executive Committee Member (1990-92), National Executive Committee Member (1992-93).

## SPRING MEETINGS

Continued from page 44

Business Loan Program.

**Res. 8 (Comm.)** Calls for improvement in GI re-employment rights and benefits.

**Res. 9 (Pa.)** Requests Congress to set aside federal funds to assist veteran-owned businesses affected by base closures and military downsizing.

**Res. 10 (Comm.)** Urges provision of free overnight facilities for VA outpatients and encourages Posts to help VA create and fund such programs.

**Res. 11 (N.Y.)** Requests VA to support and fund a "PT Phone Home" bedside phone system at VA hospitals.

**Res. 12 (Comm.)** Seeks an amendment to the United States Code to reduce the 24-month minimum active duty requirement for treatment of nonservice-connected Gulf War veterans.

**Res. 13 (Comm.)** Recommends an amendment to the United States Code to allow all claims of clear and unmistakable error to be allowed review before the Court of Veterans Appeals.

**Res. 14 (Comm.)** Directs that annual American Legion outstanding achievement awards to service academies also be presented to midshipmen at the Merchant Marine Academy.

**Res. 16 (Idaho)** Grants Post 143, Dept. of Idaho, permission to mint and sell American Legion 75th Anniversary commemorative coins.

**Res. 17 (Comm.)** Accepts a \$50,000 donation from the government of Kuwait for American Legion support of U.S. forces and their families during the Gulf War.

**Res. 18 (Comm.)** Authorizes The American Legion to solicit grants to fund veterans' training and job placement.

**Res. 21 (Comm.)** Urges Legion Departments to develop and sponsor JROTC drill competitions.

**Res. 22 (Comm.)** Outlines The American Legion policy on POW/MIAs.

**Res. 24 (Ohio)** Changes the official order of all American Legion meetings to: Call to order; Salute to Colors; Invocation; Pledge of Allegiance; Preamble.

**Res. 29 (Comm.)** Outlines The American Legion policy on the total force and maintaining viable National Guard and Reserve levels.

**Res. 30 (Comm.)** Outlines The American Legion policy on continued military preparedness.

**Res. 31 (Comm.)** Reaffirms the Legion's position that homosexual activity is incompatible with military service and urges Congress to codify the DoD ban on homosexuals in the service.

**Res. 33 (Comm.)** Recommends a national membership dues increase to \$9 per member.

**Res. 38 (Comm.)** Opposes replacing the National Anthem with other songs and urges radio and television networks to stop pre-empting the National Anthem with commercials.

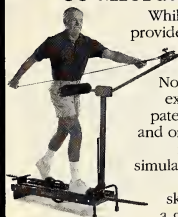
**Res. 41 (Comm.)** Petitions the U.S. Postal Service to create stamps commemorating the 60th anniversary of Boys State and the 50th anniversary of Boys Nation.

**Res. 45 (Comm.)** Urges Departments and Posts to support and aid the American Legion Auxiliary in recruiting new members.

For the full texts of all resolutions passed at the 1993 Spring Meeting, write the Archives, The American Legion National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. ☐

By Ken Schamberg

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**WWII 78 PAGES TENDER DRAMA** "Growing Up In Simple Ridge", 7 p.p. Sparks, P.O. Box 428, Cowan, TN 37318.

**FARM ANTIQUES NEWS**, 812 N. Third, Tarkio, MO 64491, copy \$2.

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**Information about Camp** Callan Army Post Hospital, Torrey Pines, Calif., during WWII. Contact: Mildred Taylor Archambo, 215 Freeman St., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464.

**Information about railroad transportation crews** operating out of Camp Lucius Strike, LeHarve, France, in January 1945. Contact: R.U. Jordan, 1430 Plainfield Rd., Darien, IL 60561-5040.

**Information about the USS Oriskany**, for museum. Contact: Robert H. Healey, Oriskany Village Museum, Box 517, Oriskany, NY 13424.

**Information and memorabilia on military drummers** from 1776 through WWII, for book and museum. Contact: Jim Smith, 806 Union Cemetery Rd., Greensburg, PA 15601-1458.

**Members of the 35th Air Transport Sq.** at Waller Field, Trinidad in WWII and Kindley AFB, Bermuda, 1952-1955. Contact: Bill Moore, 5721 Carb Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76114.

**Memorabilia of Ardmore Army Field**, Okla., for museum. Contact: Gabriel F. Aultio, 106 Countyside Dr., Havettstown, NJ 07840.

**Photos of the ammunition ship Mt. Hood** when it blew up in 1944 at Manus Island. Contact: Bill Luke, 370 Andover St., Wyckoff, NJ 07481.

**Roster of the Women's Air Transport Service in WWII.** Contact: P. Poole, P.O. 976, Palm Springs, CA 92262-0976.

**Shoulder patch of Eastern Defense Command,** Southern Sector, South Atlantic 1942. Contact: F.C. Robinson, 126 Autumn Ct., Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.

**U.S. military and intelligence people in indochina** or off shore Sept. '45 to Feb. '50, for a book. Contact: Allan Quint, 298 St. Marks Place, Staten Island, NY 10301.

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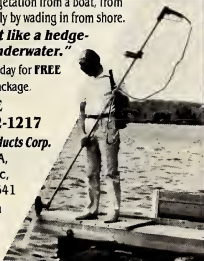
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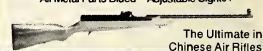
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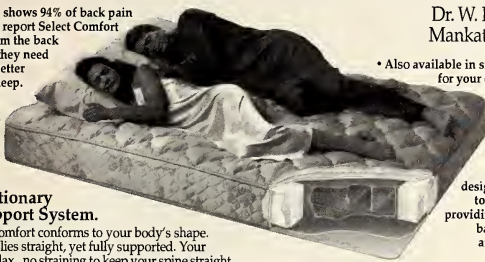
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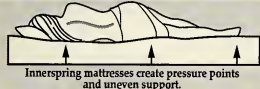
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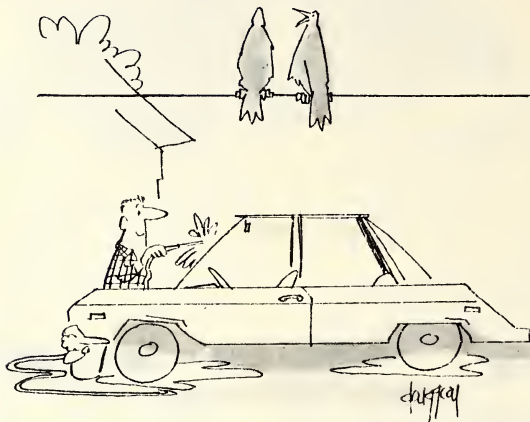
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"Wait until he waxes it."

## Sign Off

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, English is as tortured abroad as it is in America, especially on commercial signs. Some examples:

- At a cocktail lounge in Norway, "Ladies are requested not to have children at the bar."
- At a politically incorrect Japanese hotel, "You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid."
- A fun-loving Bangkok dry cleaner suggests, "Drop your trousers here for best results."
- Finally, at an Acapulco hotel, "The manager has personally passed all the water served here."

## Dog Gone Funny

If you see somebody in New York out walking his dog, you have to wonder who's the master and who's the pet. The dog leads the way and the human cleans up after it. Who would you rather be?

## No News

National Honesty Day was April 30. NBC news had no plans to cover it though.

## Up All Night

"My psychiatrist gave me a book on obsessive-compulsive behavior," said Moe to Joe.

"Was it good?" asked Joe.  
"It was great," replied Moe. "In fact, I couldn't put it down."

## False Fitness

"I went to the gym and spent five minutes on the StairMaster," Moe said to Joe. "Then I went home and spent an hour on the CouchMaster."

"I know what you mean," replied Joe. "These days, the only exercise I get is letting my imagination run wild."

## Sales Angle

Many years ago, a large American shoe manufacturer sent two sales reps out to different parts of the Australian outback to see if they could drum up some business among the aborigines. Some time later, the company received telegrams from both agents.

The first one said, "No business here. Natives don't wear shoes."

The second one said, "Great opportunity here — natives don't wear shoes!"

## Rough Road

"My firm has been sending me to rough cities," said a traveling salesman. "The hotel I stayed in last week was in such a dangerous neighborhood, room service was 911."

## Jettisoning Weight

United Airlines says it may require 1,600 of its employees to lose weight. Company officials said they don't want anybody getting confused when they talk about "wide bodies."

## Time + Money = Taxes

According to a recent survey, 66 percent of Americans would rather have more money than more time; 28 percent would rather have more time than more money; and the remaining 6 percent are IRS agents who said they wanted more time to get more of everybody's money.

## Sleepless, Work More

A new study confirms what health-care experts have long suspected, namely, that getting too little sleep is bad for your health. They've even come up with a medical term for the affliction of prolonged sleep deprivation. It's called "having a job."



"I'm sorry, but Dr. Finer only specializes in diseases of the insured."

# 20-Pound Yard and Garden Workhorse

- ✓ **The *original* Mantis®**  
(Don't be fooled by others)
- ✓ **Try Before You Buy**
- ✓ **Free \$34 Border Edger**
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**L**ittle Wonder's Mantis...

- speed-weeds gardens in minutes
  - mixes in fertilizer and compost
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- ...all summer long!

Over *half a million* delighted gardeners worldwide use our lightweight 20-lb. tiller/cultivator. *The original* Mantis does the work that you once did with a big, expensive tiller.

## Beware of imitations

Mantis' unique serpentine tines turn even tough sod into ready-to-plant beds with amazing speed and ease. The powerful 2-cycle engine

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## Yard care, too

Mantis' *lawn de-thatcher and aerator* give you a lush green carpet. Our unique *hedge and shrub trimmers* prune and shape your ornamentals. *The border edger* gives your property that professionally manicured look. A *planter/furrower* digs deep or shallow trenches for planting and irrigation.

## Try before you buy

With over 3,000 outlets coast to coast, please come in and *try out* a Mantis...before you buy one!

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- Try one out at one of our 3,000 outlets.

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This Certificate entitles the bearer to a \$40 rebate when accompanied by proof of purchase from a factory-authorized dealer for the original Mantis Tiller/Cultivator.

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*This rebate offer expires Aug. 31, 1993.*

#121

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